

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, July 11, 2021

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,991 yards

Media Contact: Zach Dirlam – ZachDirlam@pgatourhq.com, (517-262-5109)

Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Tag Ridings*	70-68-66-68—272 (-16)
T2	David Skinns	69-69-69-65—272 (-16)
	Kevin Yu	68-67-70-67—272 (-16)
T4	Taylor Pendrith	70-70-65-68—273 (-15)
	Tyson Alexander	65-66-71-71—273 (-15)

* - Won with a par on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff

Quick Links

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Tournament Media Site](#) (interviews and other resources available for download)

46-year-old Tag Ridings sinks clutch putts, wins playoff at TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes

BERTHOUD, Colo. – Night after night, 46-year-old Tag Ridings tinkered with his clubs, moving lead tape, adjusting lofts. Ridings outfitted his home garage with practically every machine one would find on the Korn Ferry Tour’s traveling equipment trucks. The last six months, Ridings even traveled with an extra suitcase of tools.

A desire to win not for himself, but for his wife and children spawned an addiction several players on Tour tease him about. Ridings joked his nickname was probably “Lead Tape.”

All the tinkering paid off at the TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes, as Ridings emerged from a chaotic final round and a three-man playoff with his second victory in what was the 477th start in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event. Ridings’ only other victory came at the 2002 WNB Golf Classic, formerly a Korn Ferry Tour event in Midland, Texas. He won it in a sudden-death playoff, holing a 138-yard wedge shot for eagle to defeat Mark Hensby.

There were 6,895 days between his first victory and his win Sunday evening.

Ridings met his future wife, Brenda, six months after the win in 2002; she caddied for him this week. As the two soaked in the victory, Brenda pulled out her phone and made a video call. She handed the phone to Ridings, who relayed with incredible joy their dad won a golf tournament.

“Staying up late, gluing clubs, all that, just because I can’t sleep because I want to do something so bad to make them understand I can support them doing this,” said Ridings, who has a 14-year-old son and daughters who are 12 and 8. “I’ve stayed awake at night hoping to win a tournament while my kids were alive.”

Ridings entered the final round two strokes behind his Sunday playing partners, 54-hole co-leaders Tyson Alexander and Taylor Moore. Once one of the longest players on the PGA TOUR, Ridings bombed drive after drive past his younger counterparts, setting up approaches inside of 10 feet and generating a string of four consecutive birdies from Nos. 3-6 which gave him the outright lead.

A pair of birdie putts inside eight feet fell at the par-4 third and fourth, then Ridings two-putted for birdie at the par-5 fifth, and knocked another approach inside of six feet for a birdie at the par-4 sixth. Although a three-putt bogey from just off the green at the par-3 eighth dropped him back into a tie for first, he bounced back with a birdie at the par-4 11th.

Following a bogey at the par-3 14th, Ridings made a two-putt birdie at the par-5 15th and moved into a five-way tie atop the leaderboard. For a matter of moments. In the group ahead, Kevin Yu, a 22-year-old making his fourth Korn Ferry Tour start as a member of the inaugural PGA TOUR University class, birdied the par-3 16th and took the outright lead at 17-under par.

Ahead of them, 39-year-old Englishman David Skinns carded the round of the day, a 7-under 65, and posted a 16-under 272 for the clubhouse lead. Yu missed the fairway at the par-4 18th, TPC Colorado's toughest hole this week, and missed a 7-footer for par which dropped him into a tie with Skinns.

Ridings missed the fairway at the 18th, too. After he blasted out of the thick rough, Ridings threw a wedge just inside of 10 feet. He buried the par putt, signed for a 4-under 68, and headed to No. 16 with Skinns and Yu for a sudden-death playoff.

Skinns drained a 33-footer for birdie, leaving Ridings with a 13-footer to extend the playoff. Just like the 18th, Ridings buried it.

"There's no way I make that putt on the first hole of the playoff if David (Skinns) hadn't already made his," Ridings said. "I'd been lagging it up there all day on those curving putts and not getting them to the hole. I had that putt in regulation and left it a foot and a half short, and had to work to make it. I just had an opportunity to hit one firm and in the back of the cup. That really helped make that putt. I can't wait to see the replay. I think I was like a shark – my eyes were closed when I went in."

The two headed back to the 16th tee for another attempt. Skinns missed the green and had a 15-footer from the fringe for par. Ridings lagged a putt inside of three feet and all but assured himself of a par. Skinns' putt violently lipped out and effectively handed the victory to Ridings.

"I didn't watch. I didn't watch. I just saw his face afterwards and realized it didn't go in," Ridings said. "I thought it was going in, and I looked away."

The victory moves Ridings from 138th to 69th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings, putting him firmly on the Korn Ferry Tour Finals bubble. It also marked Ridings' first *top-five* finish in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since a T3 at the 2017 Barbasol Championship.

"I haven't had anything bigger than that in a long time," Ridings said. "I've had some chances on tour, but this one felt bigger than those, just with all the timing and the way my last couple of seasons have gone so slowly, methodically, and not really getting much done. This was huge. Besides that, I wasn't going to get in (Korn Ferry Tour Finals) if I didn't win. I'm not even sure that guarantees me."



“Coming back from such a huge hole and the way my game was playing... I can’t say it was completely gone, because at every tournament I’d hit good golf shots. I didn’t go on a huge missed cut streak, but I was finishing 70th every time I made the cut. You don’t make money doing that. It’s just been a stretch of trying to stay in there, pay the house bills, and keep going.

“There’ve been some options creeping into my mind for the last year. But I pushed them away, and here we are. I can push them away a lot farther now.”

Sunday Notes

- **Adam Svensson** (T7 / -13) and **Brandon Wu** (T15 / -10) both eclipsed the 1,700-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe number for players to finish inside the top 25 if the 2020-21 points standings and earn a PGA TOUR card for this fall
 - Wu earned his TOUR card for the first time, while Svensson previously graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour in 2018 and played the 2019 season on TOUR
- **Tag Ridings, David Skinns, and Kevin Yu** all broke the 72-hole scoring record of 15-under par previously established by the 2019 and 2020 champions – Nelson Ledesma and Will Zalatoris
- **Kevin Yu** (T2 / -16), who finished No. 4 in the inaugural [PGA TOUR University class](#), recorded his second top-five finish in his fourth career Korn Ferry Tour start
- **David Skinns** (T2 / -16) logged his third top-five of the 2020-21 season, and his first since a solo fourth at the 2021 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation this past May
- **Taylor Pendrith** (T4 / -15) recorded his eighth top-10 of the season, as well as his sixth top-five of the season; his last top-five was a solo second at the 2020 Wichita Open Befitting KU Wichita Pediatrics
- **Tyson Alexander** (T4 / -15), who entered the day tied for the lead, recorded his third top-five of the season, and his first top-20 since winning the 2021 Veritex Bank Championship in April
- **Peter Uihlein** (T36 / -7) had Sunday’s only bogey-free round – which was just the ninth bogey-free round of the week (three Thursday and Friday, two Saturday, one Sunday)
- **Chandler Eaton** (T53 / -4) was the highest-finishing Monday qualifier this week, which was his sixth Korn Ferry Tour start following a standout career at Duke (2016-20)
 - Following his junior season at Duke, Eaton finished T41 at the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament’s Final Stage, missing guaranteed starts on the Korn Ferry Tour by a single stroke; he then returned to Duke for his senior season
- Weather: Sunny, high of 90 degrees, wind ESE at 5-12 mph
- This week’s purse was \$600,000 with \$108,000 going to the champion, Tag Ridings; he will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points
- The TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes was the 16th event of 2021 and the 39th of the 2020-21 combined season
- The combined 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour schedule will conclude with 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded in August at the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna, with an additional 25 cards awarded at the conclusion of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals

Cumulative Course Statistics

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 18, Par 4, 531 yards (4.297 – 43 birdies, 158 bogeys, 12 double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 5, Par 5, 624 yards (4.572 – 13 eagles, 213 birdies, 32 bogeys or worse)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9)** – 35.150

- **Scoring Average (Back 9)** – 36.177
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 71.327

Final-Round Course Statistics

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 18, Par 4, 531 yards (4.390 – five birdies, 35 bogeys, one double bogey)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 15, Par 5, 580 yards (4.476 – four eagles, 39 birdies, four bogeys)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9)** – 35.134
- **Scoring Average (Back 9)** – 35.829
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 70.963