

## Pre-Tournament Notes – Visit Knoxville Open

**On-Site PGA TOUR Media Contact:** Preston Smith, 706-844-2100, [PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com](mailto:PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com)

**Dates:** May 13-16, 2021

**Where:** Knoxville, Tennessee

**Course:** Holston Hills Country Club (70 / 7,028)

**Course Designer:** Donald Ross (1927)

**Field:** 156 players

**Defending Champion:** Robby Shelton (2019)

**Purse:** \$600,000 (\$108,000/winner)

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

### Quick Links

- [Tournament Media Site](#)
- [Power Rankings](#)
- [Field](#)
- [Tee Times](#)

### Things to Know

- This will be the 31st edition of the Visit Knoxville Open, one of the original four tournaments from 1990 that are still on the Korn Ferry Tour's schedule
- The historic Holston Hills Country Club, a Donald Ross-design that opened in 1927, is hosting the Visit Knoxville Open for the first time after 21 years at Fox Den Country Club
- Past champion (2018) and Chattanooga resident **Stephan Jaeger** returns to the Visit Knoxville Open as top-ranked player in Korn Ferry Tour standings
- The 2020 Visit Knoxville Open was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Notable past champions of the Visit Knoxville Open include three-time PGA TOUR champion Jeff Maggert (1990), three-time TOUR champion J.J. Henry (2000) and four-time TOUR champion Chris Kirk (2010), who was born in Knoxville; others include all-time Korn Ferry Tour money leader Darron Stiles (2002/2012) and Knoxville resident Peter Malnati (2013)

### Field Notes (as of 5/10/21)

- Field headlined by six of the top-10, and 16 of the top-25 in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings, led by No. 1 **Stephan Jaeger**
- Five players have reached the 1,700-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe number for players to finish inside of the top 25 of the 2020-21 points standings and secure PGA TOUR cards following the regular season: No. 1 **Stephan Jaeger**, No. 2 **Will Zalatoris**, No. 3 **Davis Riley**, No. 4 **Taylor Pendrith** and No. 5 **David Lipsky**
  - Zalatoris already has Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR after a string of top-10s on TOUR last fall
- No. 15 **Andrew Novak** has top-10 finishes in each of the last five Korn Ferry Tour events (3rd-T9-T5-T7-T7) and has risen from 30th to 15th in that span
- Field includes 59 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 88 total wins, led by **Stephan Jaeger** and **Martin Piller** (six apiece)
- Field includes nine PGA TOUR winners with 14 total victories, led by **Robert Allenby** with four
- 17 winners in the field from the current season: **Tyson Alexander**, **Hayden Buckley**, **Roberto Díaz**, **Brett Drewitt**, **Tommy Gainey**, **Evan Harmeling**, **Stephan Jaeger** (x2), **David Lipsky**, **Curtis Luck**, **Trey Mullinax**, **Andrew Novak**, **Mito Pereira**, **Seth Reeves**, **Adam Svensson**, **Curtis Thompson**, **Jared Wolfe** (x2), **Brandon Wu**

### 2019 Recap (2020 tournament was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
------	--------	----	----	----	----	-------

1	Robby Shelton	67	65	66	71	269 (-15)
2	Mark Anderson	67	66	69	68	270 (-14)
T3	Mark Hubbard	65	65	70	71	271 (-13)
	Tim Wilkinson	66	67	68	70	271 (-13)
	Xinjun Zhang	68	65	68	70	271 (-13)

- After entering the final round with a two-stroke lead, **Robby Shelton** held on to outpace **Mark Anderson** for a one-stroke win, his second in the state of Tennessee that season
- Shelton won his second career Korn Ferry Tour title with a back-nine 1-under 35
- Shelton went on to finish No. 2 in the regular season Korn Ferry Tour points standings and earned his PGA TOUR card, while everyone who finished in the top-five in Knoxville that season also went on to earn their card

#### Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2019	Robby Shelton	67	65	66	71	269 (-15)	1
2018	Stephan Jaeger	66	72	64	64	268 (-16)	3
2017	Talor Gooch	66	67	68	65	266 (-18)	1
2016	J.J. Spaun	66	62	63	68	258 (-26)	1
2015	Patton Kizzire	68	68	64	64	264 (-20)	4
2014	Martin Piller	65	67	67	63	262 (-22)	2
2013	Peter Malnati	70	67	66	65	268 (-16)	1
2012	Darron Stiles	67	66	66	67	266 (-18)	1
2011	Kirk Triplett	67	64	68	68	267 (-21)	2
2010	Chris Kirk	68	70	63	67	268 (-20)	2
2009	Kevin Johnson*	67	65	68	68	268 (-19)	Playoff
2008	Jarrold Lyle*	66	67	67	69	269 (-19)	Playoff
2007	Chez Reavie	68	70	65	68	271 (-17)	3
2006	Hunter Haas	67	66	67	69	269 (-19)	5
2005	Kim Felton	71	70	67	69	277 (-11)	1
2004	Hunter Haas*	71	68	67	69	275 (-13)	Playoff
2003	Vaughn Taylor*	68	69	67	64	268 (-20)	Playoff
2002	Darron Stiles	71	69	64	68	272 (-16)	1
2001	Heath Slocum	64	68	65	68	265 (-23)	6
2000	J.J. Henry	67	67	66	73	273 (-15)	1
1999	Jeff Gove	68	66	66	70	270 (-11)	1
1998	Robin Freeman*	73	65	67	69	274 (-18)	Playoff
1997	Dave Rummells	65	70	70	66	271 (-17)	2
1996	Eric Johnson	68	66	69	69	272 (-16)	2
1995	Tom Scherrer*	71	69	68	67	275 (-13)	Playoff
1994	Vic Wilk	70	71	68	66	275 (-9)	1
1993	Tim Conley	65	63	66	67	261 (-23)	7
1992	Brian Henninger	70	67	63		200 (-13)	2
1991	Frank Conner	63	68	67		198 (-15)	1
1990	Jeff Maggert*	70	66	66		202 (-11)	Playoff

\*Playoff Victory

#### Miscellaneous Notes

- Ten players in the field played collegiately in Tennessee: one at Belmont University (**Bogle Larue**), one at East Tennessee State (**Eric Axley**), one at Carson-Newman (**Thomas Forster**), one at Lipscomb University (**Dawson Armstrong**), one at Austin Peay State (**Erik Barnes**), two at Middle Tennessee State (**Kent Bulle**,

**Jason Millard**), two at University of Tennessee (**Rick Lamb, David Skinns**), two at University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (**Stephan Jaeger, Jonathan Hodge**) and one at Vanderbilt University (**Theo Humphrey**)

- No. 1 **Stephan Jaeger**, and No. 12 **Jared Wolfe** are each seeking a third win for immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR
- Eight qualifiers gained entry into the field at two sites Monday, led by medalists Jordan Hahn (64/Oak Ridge CC) and Scott Stevens (64/Three Ridges GC); Knoxville resident **Bogle Larue** also qualified
- In the inaugural event in 1990, future PGA TOUR champion Jeff Maggert topped a field that included current Golf Channel analyst Brandel Chamblee (T5), two-time major champion John Daly (T31) and 2006 PLAYERS Champion Stephen Ames (T57); other notables to compete over the years include 13-time PGA TOUR champion David Toms (1990, 1995), two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson (2005), former U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover (2002, 2003) and former PGA Championship winner Jimmy Walker (2003, 2004, 2007)
- Holston Hills hosted a PGA TOUR event, the Knoxville Invitational, in 1945 and 1946; 52-time PGA TOUR champion Byron Nelson won in 1945 (by 10 strokes) and Herman Keiser followed in 1946
- The Visit Knoxville Open is the ninth Korn Ferry Tour tournament of 2021 and 32nd of the season

#### Last week on Tour – Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation (May 6-9)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Austin Smotherman	65	69	69	69	272 (-16)
T2	Paul Haley II	68	68	69	70	275 (-13)
	Carl Yuan	70	67	67	71	275 (-13)
4	David Skinns	68	69	67	72	276 (-12)

- The Grove hosted the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation last week in College Grove, Tennessee outside of Nashville
- **Austin Smotherman** earned his first victory at 16-under 272 to top **Paul Haley II** and **Carl Yuan** by three strokes
- With the win, Smotherman moved from 55th to 20th in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings to put him in strong position to chase his first PGA TOUR card this summer
- Smotherman previously competed on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica in 2017 and 2018, winning once at the 2018 59 Abierto Mexicano de Golf
- The runner-up finishes were the second of the season for Haley II and the third for Yuan; Yuan is still seeking his first Korn Ferry Tour victory while Haley II is chasing his first title since the 2012 Chile Classic Presented by Pacific Rubiales

#### Korn Ferry Tour 2020-21 Season

With the Korn Ferry Tour forming a combined 2020-21 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Visit Knoxville Open will be the 32nd tournament (of 43) of the 2020-21 regular season.

Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards will be awarded to the top-25 players in the Korn Ferry Tour standings following the conclusion of the regular season at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (Aug. 12-15). Additionally, 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded through the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals at the conclusion of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (Sept. 2-5).

With 12 events remaining in the regular season, the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using the 1,700-point threshold as its fail-safe number for players to finish inside the top 25.

#### Current Korn Ferry Tour Standings

Position	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Points Behind	Starts
1	Stephan Jaeger	1,994	2	8	--	26
2	Will Zalatoris	1,876	1	10	118	16
3	Davis Riley	1,781	2	6	213	27

4	Taylor Pendrith	1,751	--	6	243	27
5	David Lipsky	1,710	1	6	284	25
6	Paul Barjon	1,688	1	6	306	26
7	Lee Hodges	1,666	1	7	328	27
8	Brandon Wu	1,573	1	6	421	15
9	Chad Ramey	1,533	--	8	461	30
10	Mito Pereira	1,480	1	6	514	28