



Pre-Tournament Notes – Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS

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Dates: March 17-20, 2022

Where: Broussard, Louisiana

Course: Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club (Par 71 – 6,961 yards)

Course Designer: Robert Trent Jones Jr. (1985)

Field: 144 players

Defending Champion: Roberto Díaz

Purse / Winner's Share: \$750,000 / \$135,000 winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Quick Links

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Things to Know

- Following a three-week break, the Korn Ferry Tour resumes play with the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS, the sixth tournament of its 26-event 2022 schedule
- This year marks the 30th playing of the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS, with Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club hosting every iteration of the event
 - First played in 1992, this event is tied with the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX for the fifth-longest running event on the Korn Ferry Tour, and Le Triomphe is the third-longest running host of a Tour event
 - The only events which have a longer tenure on the Korn Ferry Tour are four events from the original 1990 schedule: Albertsons Boise Open, Price Cutter Charity Championship, Visit Knoxville Open, Wichita Open
- Players with local ties for the event include sponsor exemptions **Nathan Jeansonne** (native of Keithville, Louisiana, and a Baton Rouge resident), **Brandon Pierce** (hails from Covington, Louisiana), and open qualifiers **Boyd Owens** and **Luke Haskew** (Baton Rouge high schoolers)
- Jeansonne and Pierce both played collegiately at Louisiana State University, with Pierce helping the Tigers win team titles at the 2015 NCAA Division I Championships and 2015 Southeastern Conference Championships; the other LSU alums in the field are Costa Rica's **Luis Gagne** and England's **Ben Taylor**
 - Pierce went 2-0-1 in match play as LSU won the 2015 national title, defeating Korn Ferry Tour member **Theo Humphrey** (Vanderbilt) in the quarterfinals, halving a match against PGA TOUR winner and Korn Ferry Tour alum Sepp Straka (Georgia) in the semifinals, and defeating Korn Ferry Tour member Rico Hoey (Southern California) in the championship
 - Taylor went 3-0 in match play en route to LSU's 2015 national title, defeating PGA TOUR rookie Matthias Schwab (Vanderbilt) in the quarterfinals, Georgia's Zach Healy in the semifinals, and Southern California's Bobby Gojuangco in the championship
- Reigning champion **Roberto Díaz** is attempting to become the first player in the Tour's history (established in 1990) to successfully defend his title
 - Díaz's victory last year was the first PGA TOUR-sanctioned win of his career, and it came in his 194th TOUR-sanctioned start and 113th Korn Ferry Tour start
- **Fabián Gómez** (2010) and **Julián Etulain** (2018) are the only other past champions returning to the event

- Jimmy Walker is the most accomplished past champion of the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS, as he is a six-time PGA TOUR winner, including the 2016 PGA Championship, one of 25 major championships won by Korn Ferry Tour alumni
- Six of the top 13 players from last year’s final leaderboard earned PGA TOUR cards at season’s end, including season-long points list winner Stephan Jaeger (solo fourth); the other five who earned TOUR cards were: **Peter Uihlein** (solo second), Scott Gutschewski (T6), Chad Ramey (T8), Adam Svensson (T8), Max McGreevy (T12)

Field Notes (as of 3/15/22)

- Field is headlined by 46 of the top 50 players, including 24 of the top 25, on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List currently led by **Brandon Matthews**
- Field includes 48 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 65 total wins, led by **Daniel Chopra** and **Heath Slocum** with three wins apiece
- Field includes nine past PGA TOUR winners with 19 total victories, led by **Aaron Baddeley** and **Heath Slocum** with four wins apiece
- All five champions from this season’s events – **Akshay Bhatia, Brandon Harkins, Carson Young, Brandon Matthews, Byeong Hun An** – are in the field
- Three conditional members gained entry into the field via top-10s at the last Tour event, the LECOM Suncoast Classic: **MJ Daffue** (T2), **Jay Card III** (T6), **Albin Choi** (T6)
 - Daffue and Card gained entry into the LECOM Suncoast Classic with top-10s (both T9) at the Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard the week prior
 - Choi played the LECOM Suncoast Classic via Korn Ferry’s sponsor exemption; his T6 last week marked the third-highest finish of his career, behind T5s from the 2017 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX and 2016 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- **Seonghyeon Kim**, a 23-year-old native of South Korea, is the only player in the top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking in the field this week (No. 178); his T2 at the LECOM Suncoast Classic took him to eighth on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List
- Baton Rouge high schoolers **Boyd Owens** and **Luke Haskew** highlight the eight players who gained entry into the field via open qualifying
 - Owens, an 18-year-old senior at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge who will play collegiately at Wake Forest, was medalist at the Oakwing Golf Club site with a 9-under 63
 - Haskew, an 18-year-old senior at Louisiana State University Laboratory School who will play collegiately at LSU, survived a 7-for-3 playoff at the Links on the Bayou site; he also won the 2021 Louisiana State Amateur

The Chase for PGA TOUR Cards

#	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Result for #TOURBound
1	Brandon Matthews	766	1	2	Solo 4th, 3-way T3 or higher
2	Ben Griffin	566	--	3	Win
3	Brandon Harkins	548	1	1	Win
4	Carson Young	541	1	1	Win
5	Byeong Hun An	537	1	1	Win
6	Akshay Bhatia	520	1	1	Win
7	Zecheng Dou	451	--	2	Win
8	Seonghyeon Kim	413	--	2	Win
9	Paul Haley II	355	--	1	n/a
10	Carl Yuan	353	--	2	n/a

- Following the conclusion of the 23-event regular season at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (August 11-14), 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded to the top 25 players on the [Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List](#), making those players “The 25”

- Another 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded through the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals at the conclusion of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (September 1-4)
- Leading points earners of The 25 and Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points Lists receive fully exempt status for the 2022-23 PGA TOUR season and an exemption into the 2023 THE PLAYERS Championship, while The 25's leading points earner (regular season and Finals combined) receives the added bonus of an exemption into the 2023 U.S. Open Championship
- With 18 events remaining in the regular season, the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using 900 points as its fail-safe threshold for players to finish inside the top 25 of the Regular Season Points List and become #TOURBound (see above for the latest points list)

2021 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS Recap (March 18-21)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Roberto Díaz	69	65	64	68	266 (-18)
2	Peter Uihlein	67	67	66	67	267 (-17)
3	Tom Whitney	69	71	65	63	268 (-16)
4	Stephan Jaeger	68	68	68	65	269 (-15)

- **Roberto Díaz** led by as many as four strokes in the final round, but **Peter Uihlein** pulled even with a chip-in birdie at No. 14; Díaz closed with five consecutive pars, while Uihlein made a three-putt bogey at the par-4 17th and settled for a par save on the par-4 18th after driving his tee shot into the water
- Díaz became the first Mexican winner on the Korn Ferry Tour since **José de Jesús Rodríguez** won the 2018 United Leasing & Finance Championship
- Díaz eventually finished 29th on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and 27th on the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points List, narrowly missing a PGA TOUR return both times
- Uihlein won roughly a month later at the 2021 MGM Resorts Championship at Paiute and eventually secured a PGA TOUR return via the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals
- **Tom Whitney** each gained entry into the field as an alternate during tournament week and posted a career-high finish; he went on to record two more top-10s, helping him finish No. 62 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List for fully exempt status in 2022
- Playing as Korn Ferry's sponsor exemption and making his first career Korn Ferry Tour start, Sahith Theegala (-9 / T19) capped a final-round 5-under 66 and moved into a top-25 with a birdie on the 72nd hole; he eventually earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2021	Roberto Díaz	69	65	64	68	266 (-18)	1
2019	Vince Covello	63	67	67	68	265 (-19)	Playoff
2018	Julián Etulain	62	70	66	67	265 (-19)	2
2017	Casey Wittenberg	65	64	65	69	263 (-21)	3
2016	Wesley Bryan	66	65	71	68	270 (-14)	1
2015	Kelly Kraft	67	70	68	65	270 (-14)	1
2014	Kris Blanks	71	66	71	62	270 (-14)	Playoff
2013	Edward Loar	68	66	64	69	267 (-17)	2
2012	Casey Wittenberg	66	66	63	65	260 (-24)	8
2011	Brett Wetterich	67	65	70	69	271 (-13)	1
2010	Fabián Gómez	70	68	67	64	269 (-15)	6
2009	Bubba Dickerson	71	64	69	70	274 (-10)	Playoff
2008	Gavin Coles	70	66	66	70	272 (-12)	1
2007	Skip Kendall	66	66	66	70	268 (-16)	Playoff
2006	Johnson Wagner	67	69	69	67	272 (-12)	1
2005	Ryan Hietala	66	71	65	68	270 (-18)	1

2004	Jimmy Walker	69	64	74	65	272 (-16)	1
2003	Brett Wetterich	62	68	64	70	264 (-24)	3
2002	Steven Alker	65	66	69	64	264 (-24)	Playoff
2001	Paul Claxton	68	66	70	67	271 (-17)	1
2000	Rob McKelvey	66	68	72	68	274 (-14)	1
1999	Matt Gogel	69	71	68	69	277 (-11)	1
1998	Josh Wilson	73	65	67	69	274 (-14)	5
1997	Joe Daley	62	67	69	-	198 (-18)	3
1996	Paul Stankowski	69	66	64	67	266 (-22)	4
1995	Stan Utley	70	70	66	62	268 (-20)	2
1994	Bill Porter	68	67	71	70	276 (-12)	2
1993	R.W. Eaks	67	63	72	71	273 (-15)	2
1992	Sean Murphy	64	69	67	-	200 (-16)	1

Course Information – Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club

- Years Hosted: 1992-Present (2020 canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- Scoring Average (2021): 70.995 / -0.005
- Toughest Hole (2021): No. 14, Par 4, 513 yards – 4.298 / +0.298
 - Ranked No. 34 among 50 toughest holes from the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season
- Easiest Hole (2021): No. 1, Par 5, 556 yards – 4.469 / -0.531

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 60, Brenden Pappas (2007, Round 1)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 127, Wes Short Jr. (2003)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 194, Brett Wetterich (2003) and Casey Wittenberg (2017)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 260, Casey Wittenberg (2012)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 8, Casey Wittenberg (2012)
- Playoffs: 5, last in 2019 (Vince Covello defeated Justin Lower)

Last Time on Tour – LECOM Suncoast Classic (February 17-20)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Byeong Hun An	65	66	67	69	267 (-17)
T2	MJ Daffue	68	65	64	71	268 (-16)
	Ben Griffin	69	64	65	70	268 (-16)
	Scott Harrington	65	69	67	67	268 (-16)
	Seonghyeon Kim	67	66	69	66	268 (-16)

- **Byeong Hun An** earned his first worldwide victory since 2015 and collected his first career Korn Ferry Tour win, despite a bogey on the 72nd hole after an errant drive and failed sand save attempt
- An's birdie at the par-4 16th, the toughest hole of the final round, came via a 55-foot putt, and it gave him a two-stroke lead
- An's bogey on the 72nd hole, coupled with **Michael Gellerman's** birdie at the difficult par-3 17th, left them tied for first as the latter hit into the 18th green
- Gellerman, who held the outright 54-hole lead, four-putted the final hole for double bogey and fell to T6
- **MJ Daffue** posted a second consecutive career-high finish, topping his T9 from the Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard the week prior
- **Ben Griffin** posted his second consecutive runner-up finish, as a potential tying birdie putt narrowly missed on the 72nd hole, a week after a tying eagle putt on the 72nd hole in Bogota, Colombia horseshoed out of the cup; his highest finish in nine Korn Ferry Tour starts prior to 2022 was T57

- **Scott Harrington**, a 2019 Korn Ferry Tour graduate who played the last two seasons on the PGA TOUR, posted his fifth runner-up finish on the Korn Ferry Tour and his first since the 2019 regular season finale, the WinCo Foods Portland Open, where he solidified his first TOUR card
- Rookie **Seonghyeon Kim** logged his second top-three finish of the season and capped his final-round 5-under 66 with a birdie on the 72nd hole

Alumni Spotlight

- Of the 13 Korn Ferry Tour Class of 2020-21 graduates who played last week's THE PLAYERS Championship, Taylor Pendrith recorded the highest finish with a T13 in his PLAYERS debut
- Cameron Smith, champion of the 2022 PLAYERS Championship, finished 157th in the 2015-16 FedExCup Standings in his first full TOUR season and had to retain TOUR membership via the 2016 Korn Ferry Tour Finals; he finished solo second at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, returned to the TOUR for the 2016-17 season, won the 2017 Zurich Classic of New Orleans and began a run of five consecutive FedExCup Playoffs appearances
- Ryan Brehm, a two-time Korn Ferry Tour graduate (2016, 2019), won the 2022 Puerto Rico Open on his one and only start of a PGA TOUR Minor Medical Extension, which stemmed from the 2021 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, where he withdrew after a positive COVID-19 test in advance of the event
 - Brehm had fully exempt Korn Ferry Tour status for 2022 from his win at the 2019 LECOM Health Challenge and played four of the first five Korn Ferry Tour events this season
 - Brehm is now exempt on the PGA TOUR through the 2023-24 season
- Scottie Scheffler, the cumulative winner of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, earned his second PGA TOUR victory of the season (and his career) at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard