

## Final-Round Notes – Sunday, March 20, 2022

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

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### Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Carl Yuan *	68-66-71-65—270 (-14)
2	Peter Uihlein	65-68-67-70—270 (-14)
T3	José de Jesús Rodríguez	66-68-69-68—271 (-13)
	Trevor Werbylo	69-64-68-70—271 (-13)
T5	Seven Tied	272 (-12)

\* - won with birdie on first playoff hole

### Quick Links

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

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### Carl Yuan wins playoff for first career Korn Ferry Tour victory at Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS

**BROUSSARD, Louisiana** – After four runner-up finishes, and after delaying a chance to earn a PGA TOUR card in order to represent China at the Olympic Men's Golf Competition last year in Tokyo, Carl Yuan defeated Peter Uihlein on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff for a breakthrough victory at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS.

Yuan fired a 6-under 65, one of seven scores of 65 or better Sunday, and matched Uihlein at 14-under par for the week. Yuan birdied the first playoff hole, the par-4 18th, hitting a wedge 12 feet past the hole and draining the putt. Uihlein hit a wedge 6 feet short of the hole but missed his playoff-extending birdie putt.

"I knew like I had to make mine," Yuan said. "My coach and I worked on a couple things last two weeks just having the confidence over a putt. No matter a 3-footer or a 40-footer, I have the same confidence of making it. And I have practiced (a) putt like this hundreds of times when I practice. Definitely dream about having a putt to win a tournament like this, playoff or (on) No. 18."

The victory also marked an early (or perfectly timed in his native China) birthday present, as Yuan turns 25 years old Monday.

"My wife (Cathy) said the birthday boy got to win one," Yuan said. "I really believed in her and I did the whole day, even though I was a few back to start. It's exciting. It was a tough battle today. I knew coming out of the gate I needed to get hot and make some birdies to have a chance."

A native of Dalian, China, Yuan began the day T7 at 8-under par and five strokes behind Uihlein, the outright 54-hole leader. Yuan played his first three holes at even par with a birdie at the par-5 first and bogey at the par-3 third. Yuan dipped into red figures again with a birdie at the par-5 fifth, then rattled off four consecutive birdies from Nos. 7-10. A birdie at the par-4 15th moved Yuan within two strokes of the lead, which Trevor Werbylo held for much of the back nine.

Playing alongside Uihlein in the final pairing, Werbylo double bogeyed the par-4 13th as Yuan walked onto the 18th tee. Yuan saved par from the greenside bunker at No. 18, while Werbylo made four consecutive pars and maintained a share of the lead. Werbylo's drive at No. 18 found the penalty area, though, and he missed a 15-footer for par and fell to 13-under par. Uihlein forced a playoff with Yuan after a birdie at the par-4 17th and two-putt par at the 18th.

It marked the second consecutive year Uihlein, a 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals graduate who expects to play predominantly on the PGA TOUR the rest of the season, finished solo second at Le Triomphe Golf and Country Club.

"That may be harder to do than to win, to finish runner-up twice," Uihlein said. "I did that actually when I was in junior golf, the Orange Bowl event down in Florida, I finished runner-up three straight years. I think that was more impressive than actually winning. Back-to-back seconds, it is what it is. I enjoyed my time. I like coming here."

Yuan knows the feeling of back-to-back seconds, though his were in consecutive events last season. The first two of Yuan's four career runner-up finishes across 59 career Korn Ferry Tour starts came at the 2020 WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz and Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron. Yuan added another at the 2021 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation last May.

The trio of T2s, along with three more top-10s, pushed Yuan to No. 27 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List after last June's Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics. In the heat of the race for his first PGA TOUR card, China awarded Yuan a spot on its Olympic team.

Playing in the Olympics was not without sacrifice. Yuan finished T38 in Tokyo, but missed the remainder of the Korn Ferry Tour season as he fulfilled obligations tied to his representation of China in the Olympics.

"There were some sacrifices made last year, but it was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play the Olympics, representing my country," Yuan said. "Definitely something special, and I don't regret doing it. This year, (I had) a little more fire coming out of this year. I knew I needed to get it done because I had a good chance last year."

While Sunday was Yuan's first Korn Ferry Tour victory, he previously won on PGA TOUR China as an amateur at the 2018 Qingdao Championship, his third start in a TOUR-sanctioned event. Yuan delayed turning professional until roughly a month after his victory. The reason being? Yuan wanted to represent China at the 2018 Asian Games, and he helped them win a silver medal.

Yuan, who played collegiately at University of Washington for three seasons (2015-18), first earned Korn Ferry Tour membership via a T34 at Final Stage of the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament.

Yuan finished 59th on the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, and ultimately finished 36th in 2020-21 despite the fact he missed the final six regular season events.

Yuan's victory takes him to No. 1 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, usurping Brandon Matthews, who finished T21 and dropped to No. 2.

The 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season continues Thursday, March 24 with the first round of the inaugural Lake Charles Championship at The Country Club at Golden Nugget in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

#### Final-Round Notes

- Through the first six events of the Korn Ferry Tour season, no player who has led or co-led after 18, 36, or 54 holes has gone on to win
- 14-under par marks the highest winning score by a champion of the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS since 2014-16, when three consecutive winners finished at 14-under par
- Sunday's playoff was the sixth in event history and the first since Vince Covello's victory in 2019
- **Carl Yuan** (1st / -14) trailed by five strokes after the third round, making Sunday the largest final-round deficit overcome by a winner this season
  - Akshay Bhatia's three-stroke deficit after the third round of The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay was previously the largest final-round deficit overcome by a winner this season
- **Peter Uihlein** (2nd / -14), the outright 54-hole leader, finished solo second at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS for a second consecutive year
- Uihlein, a two-time winner on the Korn Ferry Tour, has three runner-up finishes in 31 career Korn Ferry Tour starts; his other runner-up was a T2 last August at the 2021 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank
- **Trevor Werbylo** (T3 / -13), a 23-year-old in his sixth career Korn Ferry Tour start this week, posted his second top-10 of the season, with the other being a T7 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
  - Werbylo was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, where he attended the University of Arizona and earned a 2019-20 All-America Third Team selection, a 2021 All-Pac-12 Conference First Team honoree, and led Arizona to victory at the 2021 Pac-12 Championships for the program's first title since 2004
  - Werbylo earned 2021 PGA TOUR Canada status as the No. 9 player in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021; he lost in a playoff in his first professional start and won his fifth start on PGA TOUR Canada en route to winning the 2021 Order of Merit for fully exempt status on the Korn Ferry Tour this season
- **José de Jesús Rodríguez** (T3 / -13) matched the third-highest finish of his Korn Ferry Tour career (this week marked his 101st start) and recorded his highest finish since a solo second at the 2020 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper
- Louisiana State University alum **Ben Taylor** (T5 / -12) birdied the 72nd hole to move into the top five
- Fellow LSU alum **Luis Gagne** (T33 / -7) began the day in solo sixth, but shot a 2-over 73 and fell out of the top 30; his T33 finish marked the highest finish to date of his rookie season
- **Brandon Pierce** (T69 / +1) was the only other LSU alum who made the 36-hole cut
- **Jake McCrory** (T33 / -7), the only Monday qualifier who made the 36-hole cut, fell short of a top-25 in his first career PGA TOUR-sanctioned start; he will attempt to qualify for the Lake Charles Championship in tomorrow's Monday qualifier

- **Tain Lee** (T48 / -5) carded the round of the day, firing an 8-under 63 and matching his career-low round from the 2015 Chile Classic (also an 8-under 63)
- The Chitimacha Louisiana Open was the sixth of 23 regular season events on the 26-event 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule; the first set of 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded at the regular season finale, the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (August 11-14), and an additional 25 TOUR cards will be awarded following the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals, which conclude with the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (September 1-4)
- This week marked 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
- This week's purse was \$750,000, with \$135,000 going to the champion, **Carl Yuan**; he also received 500 Korn Ferry Tour points
  - All 2022 Korn Ferry Tour regular season events feature a minimum purse of \$750,000, a 25 percent increase from last season, and will boast minimum purses of \$1 million in 2023 for a [total increase of 66.7 percent](#) from 2021 to 2022