



Pre-Tournament Notes – Huntsville Championship

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Dates: April 28 – May 1, 2022

Where: Huntsville, Alabama

Course: The Ledges (Par 70 / 7,114 yards)

Course Designer: Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fray (2000)

Field: 156 players

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

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Quick Links

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

Things to Know

- Following an off week, the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season continues with the Huntsville Championship, the 10th tournament of the 26-event schedule
- This year marks the second playing of the Huntsville Championship, with The Ledges hosting once again
- The Ledges has an elevation of 1,582 feet, putting it at the highest point in Huntsville and offering views of the valley, downtown Huntsville, and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center
- Designer Dr. Michael Hurdzan was *Golf Magazine's* 2003 Designer of the Year for his work at The Ledges
- Reigning champion Paul Barjon won last year's inaugural Huntsville Championship, defeating Mito Pereira with an eagle on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff, the par-5 10th (Billy Kennerly was also in the sudden-death playoff, but was eliminated after the first hole)
- Barjon eventually finished No. 15 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and earned his first PGA TOUR card for the 2021-22 season, while Pereira won back-to-back tournaments a little over a month later and was immediately joined the PGA TOUR via the Three-Victory Promotion
- Another six top-15 finishers from last year's Huntsville Championship earned PGA TOUR cards at season's end: Davis Riley (5th), Nick Hardy (T7), Andrew Novak (T7), Brandon Wu (T7), Taylor Moore (T11), and Cameron Young (T13)
- **Carl Yuan**, who shared the 18-hole lead at last year's Huntsville Championship, is the only player to achieve #TOURBound status this season, having crossed the 900-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe threshold for players to finish among The 25 and earn a PGA TOUR card at regular season's end (see The Chase for PGA TOUR Cards section for more details)
- In the most recent event, **Tyson Alexander** became the first player in Korn Ferry Tour history to successfully defend his title, as he won a second consecutive Veritex Bank Championship
- Through the first nine events this season, no player who has led or co-led after 18, 36, or 54 holes went on to win the tournament

Local Ties

- Seven Alabama natives are in the field: **Blayne Barber** (Auburn), **Conner Godsey** (Rogersville) **Michael Johnson** (Birmingham), **Tom Lovelady** (Birmingham), **Robby Shelton** (Mobile), **Davis Thompson** (Auburn), as well as sponsor exemption **Garrett Osborn** (Birmingham)

- Five Alabama residents are in the field: **Johnson, Osborn, Shelton**, and **Erik Barnes** (all Birmingham), as well as **Barber** (Auburn)
 - Barnes, currently No. 14 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, is the only player with made cuts in all nine events this season
- Ten players in the field played collegiately in the state of Alabama:
 - Auburn University (5): **Barber, Trace Crowe, Johnson, Andrew Koza**n, and sponsor exemption **Jovan Rebula**
 - University of Alabama (3): **Lovelady, Shelton** and sponsor exemption **Wilson Furr**
 - University of Alabama-Birmingham (1): **Osborn**
 - University of Montevallo (1): **Godsey**
- **Jonathan Griz**, a 17-year-old amateur who signed a national letter of intent to play collegiately at University of Alabama as part of the Class of 2022, Monday qualified into the field; he previously Monday qualified into the 2021 Club Car Championship at The Landings Club on the Korn Ferry Tour

Field Notes (as of 4/26/22)

- Field is headlined by 19 of the top 25 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, currently led by **Carl Yuan**
- Six champions from the first nine events of the 2022 season are in this week's field:
 - **Carson Young** – The Panama Championship
 - **Brandon Matthews** – Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard
 - **Byeong Hun An** – LECOM Suncoast Classic
 - **Carl Yuan** – Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS
 - **Trevor Werbylo** – Lake Charles Championship
 - **Tyson Alexander** – Veritex Bank Championship
- Yuan (No. 178) and **Seonghyeon Kim** (No. 152) are the only players in the field ranked inside the top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking
- Field includes 39 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 53 total victories, led by **Heath Slocum** with three
- Field includes seven past PGA TOUR winners with 19 total victories, led by **Carl Pettersson** with five
- Eight players gained entry into the field via open qualifying Monday, led by Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove co-medalists **Bryce Emory** and **Jacob Bergeron**, both of whom successfully Monday qualified for a second time this season, and Huntsville Country Club co-medalists **Chip McDaniel** and **Bryce Hendrix**
 - Hendrix and fellow open qualifier **Blake Maum** will make their first PGA TOUR-sanctioned starts this week; they both have status for PGA TOUR Canada this season
 - Emory will make his third career Korn Ferry Tour start, with his previous two also coming via successful Monday qualifiers
 - Bergeron Monday qualified into the Huntsville Championship for a second consecutive year
 - McDaniel and Brian Richey both successfully Monday qualified for the second time this season

The Chase for PGA TOUR Cards

#	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	#TOURBound Result
1	Carl Yuan	941	1	4	#TOURBound
2	Byeong Hun An	880	1	2	2-way T35 or higher
3	Brandon Matthews	835	1	2	Solo 12th, 3-way T11 or higher
4	Trevor Werbylo	812	1	3	Solo 7th, 4-way T6 or higher
5	Seonghyeon Kim	807	--	3	2-way T6 or higher
6	Ben Griffin	635	--	4	Solo 2nd or win
7	T.J. Vogel	635	1	2	Solo 2nd or win
8	Tyson Alexander	600	1	2	Solo 2nd or win
9	Brandon Harkins	560	1	1	Win
10	Eric Cole	551	--	4	Win

11	Carson Young	541	1	1	Win
12	Zecheng Dou	535	--	2	Win
13	Akshay Bhatia	520	1	1	Win
14	Erik Barnes	490	--	4	Win
15	MJ Daffue	471	--	3	Win

- In the eighth event of the 2022 season, the Club Car Championship at The Landings Club, **Carl Yuan** became the first player to cross the 900-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe threshold for players to finish among The 25 and earn a PGA TOUR card at regular season's end
 - Upon receiving his PGA TOUR card later this year, Yuan will join **Zecheng Dou** and **Xinjun Zhang** as the only mainland Chinese players in history to earn PGA TOUR cards; Dou and Zhang both earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time as members of The 25 following the 2017 Korn Ferry Tour regular season
- 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 14 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 Huntsville Championship Recap (April 29-May 2, 2021)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Paul Barjon	65	67	64	69	265 (-15)
T2	Billy Kennerly	68	67	67	63	265 (-15)
	Mito Pereira	69	65	65	66	265 (-15)
4	Stephen Franken	67	67	68	64	266 (-14)
5	Davis Riley	68	66	66	67	267 (-13)

- Paul Barjon held a three-stroke lead through 54 holes, but trailed by as many as four strokes in the final round after a 2-over 37 on the front nine; he rallied with a 3-under 32 on the back nine and wedged his way into a playoff with a birdie on the 71st hole
- Barjon eventually defeated Billy Kennerly and Mito Pereira on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff
- Billy Kennerly tied the lowest round of the week with a 7-under 63 in the final round and played his way into the sudden-death playoff; he had the best look to win on the first playoff hole, the par 4 18th, but settled for par and fell out of the playoff after he bogeyed the second playoff hole (No. 18 again)
- Kennerly's T2 matched the highest finish of his Korn Ferry Tour career
- Pereira reached 17-under par after a birdie at the par-4 12th, but consecutive bogeys at the par-3 13th and par-4 14th dropped him to 15-under par and into a sudden-death playoff
- **Stephen Franken's** solo fourth marked the highest finish of his rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour
- **Davis Riley**, who played collegiately at University of Alabama, eventually finished No. 7 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and earned his first PGA TOUR card for the 2021-22 season

Course Information – The Ledges

- Years Hosted: 2021-Present
- Scoring Average (2021): 69.982 (-0.018)

- Toughest Hole (2021): No. 15, Par 4, 491 yards – 4.391 (+0.391)
- Easiest Hole (2021): No. 10, Par 5, 548 yards – 4.454 (-0.546)

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 63, Adam Svensson (2021, R2), Cameron Young (2021, R3), Billy Kennerly (2021, R4)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 129, Joey Garber (2021)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 196, Paul Barjon (2021)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 265, Paul Barjon, Billy Kennerly, Mito Pereira (2021)

Last Time on Tour – Veritex Bank Championship (April 13-16)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Tyson Alexander	65	66	66	65	262 (-22)
T2	Byeong Hun An	68	62	68	66	264 (-20)
	Pontus Nyholm	68	64	70	62	264 (-20)
T4	Martin Flores	65	68	69	63	265 (-19)
	Taylor Montgomery	65	66	64	70	265 (-19)
	Rob Oppenheim	69	63	66	67	265 (-19)

- **Tyson Alexander** became the first player in Korn Ferry Tour history to successfully defend a title, and the 16th player in Korn Ferry Tour history to win the same tournament multiple times
- Alexander sealed his second consecutive Veritex Bank Championship victory with a bogey-free 6-under 65 in the final round; he entered the week with two rounds of 67 or better this season, but broke 67 in all four rounds at Texas Rangers Golf Club
- Alexander broke a streak of eight consecutive first-time Korn Ferry Tour winners this season
- **Pontus Nyholm** recorded his first top-10 finish on the Korn Ferry Tour; his previous career-high finish was solo 11th three weeks ago at the Club Car Championship at The Landings Club
- Nyholm carded one of the five 9-under 62s in the final round, climbing from T24 to a T2 finish
- **Byeong Hun An** needed a solo second or win to cross the 900-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe threshold for players to finish among The 25 and earn a PGA TOUR card at regular season's end; he finished in a two-way T2 and moved within 20.404 points (a two-way T35) of the #TOURBound threshold
- **Taylor Montgomery** had the highest final-round score of anyone who finished T7 or higher by four strokes, as he carded a 1-under 70
- The 18-hole scoring average in the final round was 66.900, the lowest single-round average in Korn Ferry Tour history

Alumni Spotlight

- Korn Ferry Tour graduates Patrick Cantlay (Class of 2013) and Xander Schauffele (Class of 2016) teamed up for a record-setting victory at last week's Zurich Classic of New Orleans
 - Cantlay finished No. 13 on the 2013 Korn Ferry Tour money list despite the fact he only played nine events due to a back injury; he won his second start of the season (and sixth of his career) at The Panama Championship, and closed his season with a runner-up finish at the Hotel Fitness Championship
 - Schauffele finished the 2016 Korn Ferry Tour season, his first and only full season on Tour, at No. 26 on the regular season money list, but ultimately earned a PGA TOUR card for the 2016-17 season via the Korn Ferry Tour Finals; his best results on the Korn Ferry Tour were a pair of third-place finishes in consecutive starts at the 2016 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae