



## Pre-Tournament Notes – Lake Charles Championship

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**Dates:** March 24-27, 2022

**Where:** Lake Charles, Louisiana

**Course:** The Country Club at Golden Nugget (Par 71 / 6,940 yards)

**Course Designer:** Todd Eckenrode (2015)

**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](#)
- [Tee Times](#)
- [72nd Hole Livestreaming Announcement](#)

### Things to Know

- [First announced in 2019](#), the inaugural Lake Charles Championship was originally scheduled for March 26-29 2020, but was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and postponed a second time in November 2020 as a result of damage suffered along the Louisiana coast from Hurricanes Laura and Delta
- The inaugural Lake Charles Championship, hosted by The Country Club at Golden Nugget, is the seventh tournament of the 26-event 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule
- The Country Club at Golden Nugget opened in 2015 and was named to *Golf Digest's* list of Top Ten New Courses, and became the top-ranked public-access golf course in Louisiana in *Golfweek's* Best of 2021 issue after three consecutive years ranked No. 2 behind TPC Louisiana
- The Lake Charles Championship is the only new event on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule, while three of the 10 new events from the 2020-21 season are back on the schedule this year
- Players with local ties include sponsor exemptions **Michael Arnaud** (Covington, Louisiana resident) and Shreveport, Louisiana native **Philip Barbaree**
  - **Arnaud** won the Korn Ferry Tour's BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX in 2018
  - **Barbaree**, who will make his fourth career Korn Ferry Tour start (previous three were last season, and all were missed cuts), is best known for becoming the first Louisiana resident since 1977 to win the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship (won in 2015)
- Three Louisiana State University alums are in the field: **Ben Taylor** (2015), **Luis Gagne** (2019), and **Barbaree** (2020)
  - **Taylor** has made the cut in all six events this season, stands 17 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, he is coming off his second T5 of the season after a birdie on the 72nd hole of last week's Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS
  - **Gagne**, a first-year member who earned guaranteed starts for the first eight events of the season via a T19 at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, is coming off a career-high finish (T33) last week
- Korn Ferry's sponsor exemption this week is **Kevin Hall**, a deaf golfer who [lost his hearing at age 2](#) and plays predominantly on the APGA Tour; he will make his 13th career Korn Ferry Tour start and first since 2008, with his best finish being T30 at the 2005 Xerox Classic in Rochester, New York
  - Hall, 38, is a four-time winner on the APGA Tour and finished the 2016 season atop the APGA Tour points list

- Hall's most recent start in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event was the 2021 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, where he played via a sponsor exemption
- In a 2006 story [published by The Associated Press](#), Hall said through a sign language interpreter, "People will always see me as deaf and black. I don't think people will see me as just another golfer. It just won't happen. That's my story. I guess it will always be my story. But the positive thing about it is that I can use my story to inspire other people, to help them see that they can do what they want, and to help them pursue their dreams. If I can help one person, that would make me happy."
- Hall played collegiately at the Ohio State University (2000-04); his senior season at the 2004 Big Ten Conference Championships, Hall won medalist honors by 11 strokes, becoming the first Buckeye conference medalist since longtime PGA TOUR member Ryan Armour (1998)
- **Hayden Wood**, a sponsor exemption making his second career Korn Ferry Tour start (other was a missed cut at last year's Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS), is the son of Willie Wood, a two-time PGA TOUR Champions winner, and champion of the PGA TOUR's 1996 Sanderson Farms Championship

#### Field Notes (as of 3/22/22)

- Field is headlined by 24 of the top 25 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, currently led by **Carl Yuan**, who won last week's Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS
- **Yuan** climbed 113 spots to reach No. 177 in the Official World Golf Ranking after last week's win; the only other player in the field ranked inside the top 200 is 23-year-old South Korean **Seonghyeon Kim** (No. 178)
- All six champions from this season's events are in the field this week
  - **Akshay Bhatia** - The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
  - **Brandon Harkins** - The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at the Abaco Club
  - **Carson Young** – The Panama Championship
  - **Brandon Matthews** - Astara Golf Club Championship presented by Mastercard
  - **Byeong Hun An** – LECOM Suncoast Classic
  - **Carl Yuan** – Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS
- Field includes 41 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 50 total victories led by nine players with two apiece
- Field Includes seven PGA TOUR winners with 14 total victories, led by **Carl Pettersson** with five
- Eight players gained entry via open qualifying led by Oakwing Golf Club site medalist **Callum McNeill** (8-under 64) of Scotland, and Links on the Bayou site medalist **Luke Schniederjans** (7-under 65), who successfully Monday qualified for the second time this season
  - **Schniederjans** carded a 6-under 66 and survived a 6-for-3 playoff at the Monday qualifier in February to join the LECOM Suncoast Classic field
  - In his second season as a member with conditional status, **Philip Knowles** survived a 2-for-1 playoff at the Oakwing site to earn his second Korn Ferry Tour start this year
    - Knowles finished T22 at LECOM Suncoast Classic while playing as a sponsor exemption
  - **Matthew Picanso** survived a 5-for-3 playoff at the Links on the Bayou site and successfully Monday qualified for a second consecutive week

#### The Chase for PGA TOUR Cards

#	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Result for #TOURBound
1	Carl Yuan	853	1	3	Solo 19th or higher
2	Brandon Matthews	803	1	2	Solo 6th or higher
3	Byeong Hun An	574	1	1	Win
4	Ben Griffin	566	-	3	Win
5	Brandon Harkins	552	1	1	Win
6	Carson Young	541	1	1	Win
7	Akshay Bhatia	520	1	1	Win
8	Zecheng Dou	457	--	2	Win
9	Seonghyeon Kim	425	--	2	Win

10	Paul Haley II	375	--	1	n/a
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- 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 17 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)

#### [Last Time on Tour](#) – Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS (March 17-20)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
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	67	70	271 (-13)
T3	Trever Werbylo	69	64	68	70	271 (-13)

- On the eve of his 25th birthday, **Carl Yuan** collected his first career Korn Ferry Tour win, firing a 6-under 65 in the final round and defeating Peter Uihlein with a birdie on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff, the par-4 18th, to overcome a five-stroke deficit
  - Yuan’s five-stroke deficit following the third round is the largest deficit overcome in a final round by a Korn Ferry Tour winner this season
- Yuan rose from No. 10 to No. 1 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and is bidding to join **Zecheng Dou** and **Xinjun Zhang** as the only mainland Chinese golfers in history to earn a PGA TOUR card
- Uihlein, a two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner, held the outright 54-hole lead but shot a final-round 1-under 70 and finished solo second at the event for a second consecutive year
- **José de Jesús Rodríguez** finished T3, tying the third-highest finish of his career (101 Korn Ferry Tour starts) and marking his best finish since a solo second at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper July 2020
- **Trevor Werbylo**, a 23-year-old who made his sixth Korn Ferry Tour start of the season and his career last week, logged his second top-10 of the season
- 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

#### Alumni Spotlight

- Sam Burns earned his third PGA TOUR victory in his last 22 starts and successfully defended his title at the Valspar Championship, draining a 35-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff with 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour graduate Davis Riley
- Burns turned professional out of Louisiana State University in 2017, finished T10 at Final Stage of the 2017 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, won the 2018 Club Car Championship at The Landings Club and graduated to the PGA TOUR at season’s end via The 25 (regular season)
- Riley’s solo second marked a career-high PGA TOUR finish and his second top-10 of the 2021-22 season
- In his second season on the Korn Ferry Tour, Riley won twice and finished No. 7 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, earning his first PGA TOUR card as a member of The 25