

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, March 27, 2022

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

Media Contacts: Hagan Parkman, 817-983-3251, HaganParkman@pgatourhq.com; Zach Dirlam, 517-262-5109, ZachDirlam@pgatourq.com

Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Trevor Werbylo *	70-69-64-63—266 (-18)
2	Seonghyeon Kim	68-66-64-68—266 (-18)
3	Eric Cole	69-67-66-67—269 (-15)
T4	Anders Albertson	70-67-65-68—270 (-14)
	MJ Daffue	68-69-68-65—270 (-14)

* - won with birdie on third playoff hole

Quick Links

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

Trevor Werbylo wins inaugural Lake Charles Championship with back-to-back playoff birdies

LAKE CHARLES, Louisiana – Trevor Werbylo birdied the last two holes of regulation, watched from the clubhouse as 54-hole leader Seonghyeon Kim accomplished the same feat and forced a playoff, but ultimately prevailed with a birdie on the third playoff hole of the inaugural Lake Charles Championship.

Werbylo began the day at 10-under par, five strokes behind Kim. The 23-year-old Tucson, Arizona native erased the deficit with an 8-under 63, the best final round in the field by two strokes, reaching 18-under par for the week.

The third playoff hole was the drivable 304-yard par-4 first. Werbylo's drive ended up just off the left side of the green, while Kim found the greenside bunker. Werbylo left his chip 18 feet short of the hole, forcing him to play before Kim, who had roughly a 10-footer for birdie.

Werbylo poured it over the center of the cup, while Kim's attempt grazed the edge and stayed out.

"I don't know if it totally has sunken in yet, but it's so special," Werbylo said. "To play this well and to win any tournament is huge, but to win on the Korn Ferry Tour, the implications of it are huge. It's very satisfying."

Werbylo birdied his first three holes Sunday, and later recorded back-to-back birdies at Nos. 9 and 10, as well as Nos. 13 and 14. A "sloppy" bogey at the par-3 16th dropped Werbylo to 16-under par, but a 30-footer for birdie at No. 17 negated the miscue. Werbylo stuck his approach just inside 10 feet at the downwind 398-yard par-4 18th and drained his ninth birdie of the round.

Meanwhile, Kim struggled on the front nine, making four bogeys and three birdies. After Kim made an eagle putt at the par-5 14th, the [23-year-old South Korean](#) and No. 178-ranked player in the Official World Golf Ranking still found himself two strokes behind Werbylo. Following a birdie at the par-4 17th, Kim stuck his approach at No. 18 a couple feet inside where Werbylo's ball came to rest a half hour prior. Kim buried the birdie putt, signed for a 3-under 68, and headed back to the 18th tee for the playoff with Werbylo.

Both Werbylo and Kim missed makeable birdie putts on the first playoff hole, sending them back to No. 18 tee for another go. Werbylo put his drive behind the grandstands the second time around, but he was fortunate to have a stance and relatively clean lie.

"I knew it actually wasn't that bad over there," Werbylo said. "You're chipping back into the wind, I had green to work with. There was stuff I had to go over and there wasn't a great view of where I was hitting to, but I knew I was okay. It looked bad, but honestly, I thought I could get closer than I did."

Werbylo's shot from the bushes stopped in the fringe just under 20 feet from the hole. With Kim roughly 12 feet from the hole, Werbylo was first to play. Both made their birdie putts and extended the playoff.

"You've got to expect your opponent to play great. I expected him to make a couple birdies, and he did," Werbylo said. "He had a putt, like a 6- or 7-footer, on the first (playoff) hole and I couldn't control that. To that point, yeah, there's part of me that's like, it's over. To then make a couple birdies in the playoff, make some putts, it was... I was putting it well. I just felt confident over every putt I hit the last couple holes, including the playoff."

"Making that putt was huge and I gained momentum," Werbylo said of the second playoff hole. "Standing over the putt on the third (playoff) hole, it definitely gave me more confidence. I looked at it and felt like I could put a good stroke on it, and saw it rolling right in the center."

The victory offered a bit of redemption for Werbylo, who led much of the final round at last week's Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS but made a costly double bogey with six holes remaining, then missed a par save on the 72nd hole and wound up one stroke out of a playoff.

"Last week was disappointing just the way I finished the tournament, but it was still a good week," Werbylo said. "If you're putting yourself there enough, you're going to win some tournaments, and fortunately I was able to and played great this weekend. It's nice to bounce back this quickly and get a victory. It's been a fun couple weeks."

Werbylo played collegiately at the University of Arizona and made his way to the Korn Ferry Tour via the newly-established [PGA TOUR University](#) presented by Velocity Global. The mission of PGA TOUR University is to elevate the path to the PGA TOUR for college golf's top seniors. It also incentivizes players to stay in school longer and continue to work toward a degree.

The top-five players in the inaugural [PGA TOUR University Class of 2021](#) earned Korn Ferry Tour status and an exemption into Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. Players who finished Nos. 6-15 earned PGA TOUR Canada status and an exemption into Second Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. Werbylo, who garnered 2021 All-Pac-12 First Team recognition and led Arizona

to team title at the 2021 Pac-12 Championships (the program's first title since 2004), finished No. 9 in the inaugural class.

In his first PGA TOUR Canada start last June, Werbylo lost in a playoff. Four starts later, Werbylo won The Fuzz Zoeller Classic at Covered Bridge. The strength of those two results, along with a T6 and another top-25, propelled Werbylo to No. 1 in the Order of Merit, granting him fully exempt status for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season and enabling him to skip the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament altogether.

"I owe a lot to that system," Werbylo said. "I think it only makes sense because every other sport, you play great in college and you have a path to professional sports. Now that golf is doing that, it's phenomenal."

With the win, Werbylo moves to No. 3 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, 37 points behind Brandon Matthews, and 55 points behind Carl Yuan.

The 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season continues Thursday, March 31 with the first round of the Club Car Championship at The Landings Club in Savannah, Georgia, with the event being contested on The Landings Club's Deer Creek course.

Final-Round Notes

- Through the first seven 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
- **Trevor Werbylo** (1st / -18) tied the second-lowest round (both in terms of score and relation to par) in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play Sunday; he shot a 9-under 61 on the satellite course of the Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard earlier this year, and carded a pair of 8-under 63s in his PGA TOUR Canada win last year at The Fuzzy Zoeller Classic at Covered Bridge
- Rookie **Seonghyeon Kim** (2nd / -18) posted his second T2 and third top-three finish in his seventh career Korn Ferry Tour start (all in 2022); he was previously T2 at last month's LECOM Suncoast Classic, and solo third at the second event of the season, The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
- **Eric Cole** (3rd / -15) posted his fourth top-10 in his last six starts; he had one top-10 (T3 at the 2020 Club Car Championship at The Landings Club) in his first 42 Korn Ferry Tour starts
- **MJ Daffue** (T4 / -14) logged his third top-10 of the season; his best Korn Ferry Tour finish prior to 2022 was T15 at the 2019 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper
- **Anders Albertson** (T4 / -14) posted his best finish since a T2 at the 2018 Albertson Boise Open presented by Chevron
- Conditional members **Matthew Picanso** (T21 / -10) and **Ryan Ruffels** (T21 / -10) earned starts for next week's Club Car Championship at The Landings Club with their top-25s
 - Picanso Monday qualified into the field for a second consecutive week, while Ruffels played this week as a sponsor exemption
 - Ruffels' finish marked his first top-25 since the 2020 WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz
 - Picanso made his third career Korn Ferry Tour start and posted his first made cut
- Louisiana State University alum **Luis Gagne** (T21 / -10) shot an even-par 71 and fell out of the top 10, but posted a career-high finish this week, eclipsing his T33 from last week's Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS

- In his sixth PGA TOUR-sanctioned start (second on Korn Ferry Tour, four on PGA TOUR Canada) and playing via a sponsor exemption, **Hayden Wood** (T51 / -7) made a triple bogey at the par-3 16th; a par would have secured a top-25 and entry into next week's Club Car Championship at The Landings Club
 - This week was Wood's first made cut in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play
 - Hayden is the son of Willie Wood, a two-time PGA TOUR Champions winner, and champion of the PGA TOUR's 1996 Sanderson Farms Championship
- The inaugural Lake Charles Championship was the seventh 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's purse was \$750,000, with \$135,000 going to the champion, Trevor Werbylo; 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
- [First announced in 2019](#), this week's 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

Final-Round Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total): 69.605 [-1.395]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine – Par 36): 34.605 [-1.395]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine – Par 35): 35.000 [E]
- Toughest Hole: No. 10, Par 4, 500 yards – 4.237 / No. 16, Par 3, 176 yards – 3.237 [+0.237]
- Easiest Hole: No. 3, Par 5, 524 yards – 4.355 [-0.645]

Cumulative Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total): 69.708 [-1.292]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine – Par 36): 34.668 [-1.332]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine – Par 35): 35.041 [+0.041]
- Toughest Holes: No. 10, Par 4, 500 yards – 4.359 [+0.359]
- Easiest Hole: No. 3, Par 5, 524 yards – 4.467 [-0.533]