

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, February 20, 2022

Course Setup: Lakewood National Golf Club – Commander (Par 71 / 7,113 yards)

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

Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Byeong Hun An	65-66-67-69—267 (-17)
T2	Seonghyeon Kim	67-66-69-66—268 (-16)
	Scott Harrington	65-69-67-67—268 (-16)
	Ben Griffin	69-64-65-70—268 (-16)
	MJ Daffue	68-65-64-71—268 (-16)
T6	Eight Tied	269 (-15)

Quick Links

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

Byeong Hun An wins LECOM Suncoast Classic as Michael Gellerman four-putts 72nd hole

LAKEWOOD RANCH, Florida – Despite self-described “mediocre” third and final rounds, PGA TOUR veteran Byeong Hun An emerged from the 2022 LECOM Suncoast Classic with his first TOUR-sanctioned victory and first worldwide win since 2015. An followed Saturday’s 4-under 67 with a 2-under 69 in Sunday’s final round, taking him to 17-under par for the week and securing a one-stroke victory over four different players at T2.

“It was a long day,” An said. “I was grinding all day. Last hole was a bit unlucky, lucky and unlucky at the same time, but I got the job done and that’s what you need to do. I missed a lot of putts today, but grinded it out and just did enough to win out there.

“I finally realized I don’t need to play four days of perfect golf. I had a mediocre day yesterday and today and still got away with this. It gives me a lot of confidence.”

An was one of several players who held at least a share of the lead in the final round, but a 55-footer for birdie at the par-4 16th, the toughest hole Sunday on Lakewood National Golf Club’s Commander course, gave An a two-stroke advantage over a host of chasers.

“It was shocking,” An said. “But it was about time to go in, so that was a little relief there. I missed a lot of short putts today, so I wasn’t putting great. I hit it a little too hard and it was leaking a little right... and it broke left again and went into the hole. I think that’s what golf is. You miss all the putts and that was a perfect time to make one happen. That helped me hit a good shot the next hole as well. I think it’s chaos in my head, missing all day but this went in. It’s golf.”

After a par at No. 17, An's tee shot found the pine straw and cattail bushes off the right side of the fairway of the 473-yard par-4 18th. Then 30-year-old left his approach in the greenside bunker and missed a 10-footer for par from the back fringe. The bogey dropped him to 17-under par and, coupled with 54-hole leader Michael Gellerman's birdie at the par-3 17th, into a tie for the lead.

"I chickened out," An said of his drive at No. 18. "It was a terrible swing."

Playing partner Ben Griffin and MJ Daffue, playing out of the final group, both ran potential tying birdie putts by the edge of the cup on No. 18. Gellerman needed to two-putt from beyond 30 feet on the 72nd hole in order to force a playoff with An. The 29-year-old Sterling, Kansas native ran the first putt eight feet past the hole, and his comebacker for par slid past the high side. An inconsequential tap-in putt (for the time being, at least) lipped out, dropping him from a five-way T2 and into an eight-way T6, a difference of 88.87 points on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List.

The near-misses on the 18th green left An as the outright winner.

While it was An's first PGA TOUR-sanctioned victory, he previously won the 2014 Rolex Trophy on the Challenge Tour, 2015 BMW PGA Championship on the DP World Tour, and 2015 Shinhan Donghae Open on the Korean Tour.

"I came close a lot of times on PGA TOUR, and people still think, why are you here?" said An, a three-time runner-up on the PGA TOUR, two of which were playoff losses. "Well, I didn't have a good year, but to have a win early in the season, I think that helps a lot. My goal is not to just get my card, but my whole team – my coach, my manager and my wife – all believe and I think I'm capable of doing a lot better things."

Much has changed for An in the years since his last victory.

For starters, An, who moved from South Korea to the United States in 2005 and attended the David Leadbetter Golf Academy, is in his first season on the Korn Ferry Tour after six consecutive seasons on the PGA TOUR. An earned Special Temporary Membership in 2015-16 after a playoff loss in the rain-shortened Zurich Classic of New Orleans. An made the FedExCup Playoffs each of the next four seasons, highlighted by finishes of 42nd (2017-18), 53rd (2018-19), and 33rd (2019-20). He also represented South Korea in the 2016 Olympic Men's Golf Competition, where he finished T11. Another high point was the 2019 Presidents Cup, which saw An total two points for the International Team in a narrow 16-14 loss to the United States.

An fell down to the Korn Ferry Tour after he finished 164th in the 2020-21 FedExCup Standings and outside the top 25 at the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

An and his wife, Hee Jae (goes by Jamie), also welcomed their first child to the world, Sunwoo Stanley. Their son's second birthday was earlier this week, so the couple celebrated last weekend before they drove from their home in Orlando, Florida to Lakewood Ranch.

"It's impossible to travel with the just the two of us," An said of he and his wife. "Thankfully, this week we have in-laws in Orlando, they're taking care of (Sunwoo Stanley) and this week feels like old days. Everything just clicked. Having dinner with her every night... it's hard to describe, but it felt very relaxing and calm. It was great to have her here."

“Definitely not going to give (Sunwoo Stanley) the trophy, because he’s going to throw it on the ground,” An continued. “I’ll keep it up there and maybe in later years he’ll know what it is, what it means. I can’t wait to see him. Hopefully next Sunday, but if I don’t make it tomorrow, I get to see him Tuesday.”

Next up for An is Monday’s open qualifier for The Honda Classic, one of his favorite PGA TOUR events. An and his wife will make the three-hour drive to West Palm Beach, Florida in a car fit for a champion: a Lamborghini Urus.

“You have to play almost the best golf you can to make it,” An said. “It will be great if I make it, and if I don’t, just going to enjoy my three weeks off.”

With the win, An climbs from 84th to fifth on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List.

The 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season continues Thursday, March 17 with the first round of the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS at Le Triomphe Golf and Country Club in Broussard, Louisiana.

Final-Round Notes

- This season’s first five champions won in their fifth (Akshay Bhatia), 74th (Brandon Harkins), 10th (Carson Young), 50th (Brandon Matthews), and sixth (**Byeong Hun An**) career Korn Ferry Tour start
- Through the first five 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
- Zero bogey-free rounds were recorded Sunday, as the course scoring average was less than one stroke under par for the first time all week (70.176 / -0.824)
 - There was one bogey-free round Saturday, 13 Friday, and six Thursday
- **Ben Griffin** (T2 / -16) finished T2 for a second consecutive week, earning his third top-10 and fourth top-15 in fives starts this season; his highest finish in nine Korn Ferry Tour starts prior to this season was a T57 at the 2019 REX Hospital Open
 - Griffin [quit professional golf last spring](#) and worked as a mortgage loan officer in his hometown of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, until he returned to the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament and earned eight guaranteed starts with a T29 at Final Stage
- First-time member **Seonghyeon Kim** (T2 / -16), No. 190 in the Official World Golf Ranking and only player in the field ranked inside the top 200, posted his second top-three finish of the season, with the other being a solo third at the 2022 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
 - Kim finished on the number (T39) for guaranteed starts in the first eight 2022 events at Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament last November; he birdied his 71st hole to move to T39
 - Kim boasts international victories from the 2021 Japan PGA Championship on the Japan Golf Tour, as well as the 2020 KPGA Championship, where he became the first player in the history of the Korean Tour to [win an event as a Monday Qualifier](#)
- **Scott Harrington** (T2 / -16), 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 first since a solo second at the 2019 regular season finale, the WinCo Foods Portland Open, where he solidified his first PGA TOUR card

- Harrington also finished T2 on the PGA TOUR at the 2019 Hewlett Packard Enterprise Houston Open, which propelled him to a No. 98 finish in the 2019-20 FedExCup Standings
- **MJ Daffue** (T2 / -16), a conditional member who gained entry into the field via a top-10 (T9) at last week's Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard, posted a second consecutive career-high finish
 - Daffue made his first of 14 career Korn Ferry Tour starts in 2019 and Monday qualified into five of his 10 career Korn Ferry Tour starts prior to this season, while another three were via top-25s following a successful Monday qualifier
- Daffue's four scores of bogey or worse were tied for the fewest by any player in the post-cut field this week, but his four over-par scores included a triple bogey at the par-5 ninth Sunday
- Conditional members **Albin Choi** (T6 / -15) and **Jay Card III** (T6 / -15) both earned guaranteed spots in the next event, the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS, by virtue of their top-10s
 - Choi, who Monday qualified into the 2021 LECOM Suncoast Classic, played this week via Korn Ferry's sponsor exemption and turned in the third-highest finish of his career, behind T5s at the 2017 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX and 2016 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
 - Choi was the 2013 Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year and 2013 All-America Second Team selection as a junior at North Carolina State University, where he won nine individual titles
 - Across seven years (2013-19) and 110 starts, Choi had just six top-10s and lost Korn Ferry Tour status following the 2019 season, leaving him financially unable to continue his career; he quit professional golf and caddied six days a week (oftentimes 36 holes per day) at Old Palm Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens
 - Choi caddied for Sungjae Im, who he'd befriended in their 2018 season together on the Korn Ferry Tour, at the 2020 Honda Classic, Im's first PGA TOUR win, and remained on the bag until the 2020 BMW Championship, after which Choi resumed his own playing career
 - Card gained entry into the field via a T9 from last week's Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard, and this week was his third career Korn Ferry Tour start
- **Paul Haley II** (T14 / -14) shot the lowest round of the day, a 6-under 65, his lowest round since a final-round 6-under 65 at the 2021 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank last August
- Playing the LECOM Suncoast Classic via a sponsor exemption for the third consecutive year, Bradenton, Florida native **Philip Knowles** (T22 / -12) chipped in for birdie on the 72nd hole and shot a final-round 3-under 68; he missed the cut in his two previous Korn Ferry Tour starts
- **Brandon Matthews** (MC) remains No. 1 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List with 766 points, leading **Ben Griffin** (T2 / -16) by 200 points
- The LECOM Suncoast Classic was the fifth 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, **Byeong Hun An**; 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