



Pre-Tournament Notes – The Panamá Championship

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Dates: February 3-6, 2022

Where: Panamá City, Panamá

Course: Panamá Golf Club (Par 70 / 7,325 yards)

Course Designer: Jay Riviere

Field: 144 players

Defending Champion: Davis Riley (2020)

Purse: \$750,000 (\$135,000/winner)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

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Things to Know

- The Panamá Championship, hosted by Panamá Golf Club and being played for the 18th time, is the third tournament of the 26-event 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule; the Tour continues international play for a third consecutive week, having opened with two events in The Bahamas
 - Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards will be awarded to the top 25 players in the Korn Ferry Tour standings following the conclusion of the 23-event regular season at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (August 11-14)
 - 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)
- The 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season is following an unprecedented 46-event combined 2020-21 season
- Five of the top six finishers from the 2020 The Panamá Championship went on to earn PGA TOUR cards via the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings
 - The five were: Davis Riley (winner), Lee Hodges (T3), Ben Kohles (T3), Max McGreevy (T3), and Mito Pereira (T3)
- Jimmy Walker, the 2016 PGA Championship winner and a six-time PGA TOUR winner, won the inaugural playing of The Panamá Championship in 2004
- Carlos Ortiz, winner of the PGA TOUR's 2020 Hewlett Packard Enterprise Houston Open, captured The Panamá Championship title in 2014; his younger brother, **Alvaro Ortiz**, finished T22 as a sponsor exemption last week at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, and has guaranteed starts for the next two events by virtue of a No. 4 finish in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit
- **Taylor Montgomery**, who finished 26th in both the 2020-21 Regular Season and Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points Standings, once again found himself on the wrong side of a bursting bubble, this time at last week's Farmers Insurance Open; he stood T10 and was positioned for a start at this week's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am until Aaron Rai's birdie on the final putt of regulation knocked Montgomery into a T11 finish
- **John Pak** makes his Korn Ferry Tour debut this week; he finished No. 1 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University presented by Velocity Global Class of 2021, which earned him an exemption to the Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, where he finished on the number (T39) for guaranteed starts in the first eight events of the season

- Pak swept the three NCAA Division I national player of the year awards – Jack Nicklaus Award, Ben Hogan Award, Fred Haskins Award – in 2021, his senior season at Florida State University
- Pak elected to play The American Express (he missed the cut) via a sponsor exemption rather than the Korn Ferry Tour’s season-opening events in The Bahamas
- **Seonghyeon Kim**, a 23-year-old native of South Korea, rose to No. 182 in the Official World Golf Ranking following a solo third finish at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club

Field Notes (as of 2/1/22)

- Field includes 38 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 51 total wins, led by **Daniel Chopra** with three
- Field includes seven past PGA TOUR winners with nine total victories, led by **Daniel Chopra** and **Fabián Gómez** with two apiece
- **Akshay Bhatia**, winner of the season-opening The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, is in the field, while last week’s winner, Brandon Harkins, is playing the PGA TOUR’s AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am via a sponsor exemption
- Field includes six winners from the 2020-21 season: **Tyson Alexander, Roberto Díaz, Harry Hall, Evan Harmeling, David Kocher, and Tag Ridings**
- Field features 31 players in the field who finished in the top 75 of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, including seven players who finished 40th or higher
- **Mark Anderson** returns to the field for the 10th time in the last 11 editions of the event (did not play 2020, as he graduated to the PGA TOUR following the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour season); he made the cut in each of his nine previous appearances and logged six top-25s, including a T4 in 2010
- Players who earned Korn Ferry Tour membership via the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit – **Brandon Matthews, Sam Stevens, Conner Godsey, Alvaro Ortiz, MJ Maguire** – have guaranteed starts this week and next week in Bogotá, Colombia
- Four open qualifiers gained entry into the field at two sites last Monday, January 24 – **Jay Card III** (medalist), **Quade Cummins, Blake Dyer** (medalist), **Bryce Emory**

2020 The Panamá Championship Recap (January 30-February 2)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Davis Riley	67	70	64	69	270 (-10)
2	Roberto Díaz	67	70	69	65	271 (-9)
T3	Lee Hodges	69	67	67	69	272 (-8)
	Ben Kohles	67	68	69	68	272 (-8)
	Max McGreevy	70	63	69	70	272 (-8)
	Mito Pereira	68	69	65	70	272 (-8)

- Davis Riley earned his first career Korn Ferry Tour win with weekend rounds of 6-under 64 and 1-under 69; he held a one-stroke lead with three holes to play and closed with three consecutive pars
- Riley trailed 36-hole leader Taylor Pendrith by six strokes after the second round, and entered the weekend in T22 position
- Riley added a second victory at the TPC San Antonio Championship at the Oaks and finished No. 7 in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings en route to his first PGA TOUR card
- Runner-up **Roberto Díaz** went on to finish 29th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings to remain fully exempt for the 2022 season; he also earned a victory at the 2021 Chitimacha Louisiana Championship presented by MISTRAS
- Mito Pereira matched his career-high finish at that time (a T3 from the 2017 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation); he went on to win the following week and twice more thereafter, earning a Three-Victory Promotion to the PGA TOUR at the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX in June 2021
- Lee Hodges’ T3 marked the first of his nine top-10s during the 2020-21 season; he finished No. 10 in the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings and earned his first PGA TOUR card
- Ben Kohles’ T3 was the first of three top-three finishes during his 2020-21 season, which saw him finish No. 23 in the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings and regain PGA TOUR membership

- Max McGreevy's T3 marked his career-high finish on the Korn Ferry Tour until he won the 2020 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper in July 2020; he eventually finished No. 14 in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings and earned his first PGA TOUR card

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2020	Davis Riley	67	70	64	69	270 (-10)	1
2019	Michael Gligic	70	70	67	65	272 (-8)	1
2018	Scott Langley	71	68	69	65	273 (-7)	2
2017	Andrew Putnam*	64	68	67	68	267 (-13)	Playoff
2016	Ryan Armour	70	69	65	64	268 (-12)	3
2015	Mathew Goggin	67	65	70	67	269 (-11)	4
2014	Carlos Ortiz	70	68	66	64	268 (-12)	4
2013	Kevin Foley	66	69	70	67	272 (-8)	1
2012	Edward Loar	66	68	68	74	276 (-4)	1
2011	Matthew Goggin	68	66	67	68	269 (-11)	2
2010	Fran Quinn	66	66	62	71	265 (-15)	2
2009	Vance Veazey*	67	69	68	69	273 (-7)	Playoff
2008	Scott Dunlap	65	68	73	71	277 (-3)	1
2007	Miguel Angel Carballo	69	67	73	65	274 (-6)	2
2006	Tripp Isenhour	63	67	70	69	269 (-11)	3
2005	Vance Veazey	65	71	66	70	272 (-8)	1
2004	Jimmy Walker	65	69	70	69	273 (-7)	5

*Playoff Victory

Course Information – Panamá Golf Club

- Years Hosted: 2004-Present
- Panamá Golf Club is traditionally one of the most difficult courses on the Korn Ferry Tour, having finished with one of the five highest scoring averages relative to par in 14 of its 17 previous seasons on Tour
 - The course ranked as the No. 1 toughest course on Tour four times (2004, 2008, 2009, 2019)
 - The course featured five of the 50 toughest holes on the Korn Ferry Tour for the 2019 season – Hole No. 7 (ranked sixth), No. 2 (ranked 24th), No. 15 (ranked 33rd), No. 10 (ranked 39th), and No. 6 (ranked 48th)
- Scoring Average (2020): 70.458 / +0.458
 - Ranked as No. 6 toughest course relative to par on Tour for the 2020-21 season
- Toughest Hole (2020): No. 11, Par 4, 487 yards – 4.166 / +0.166
- Easiest Hole (2020): No. 4, Par 5, 520 yards – 4.706 / -0.294

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 61, Ryan Armour (2011, Round 2)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 130, Tripp Isenhour (2006) and Curtis Thompson (2016)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 194, Fran Quinn (2010)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 265, Fran Quinn (2010)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 5, Jimmy Walker (2004)

Last week on Tour – The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club (January 23-26)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Brandon Harkins	69	65	68	68	270 (-18)
2	Zecheng Dou	69	66	66	69	270 (-18)
3	Seonghyeon Kim	71	65	70	66	272 (-16)
T4	Erik Barnes	72	67	64	72	275 (-13)

	Tain Lee	71	66	68	70	275 (-13)
	Kevin Roy	68	69	68	70	275 (-13)

- The Abaco Club on Winding Bay hosted the Korn Ferry Tour and The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club last week
- Brandon Harkins earned his win in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event in his 179th career start
- Harkins trailed 54-hole leader **Zecheng Dou** by two strokes with three holes remaining in regulation, but made three consecutive pars as Dou bogeyed two of the final three holes to fall into a playoff – which Harkins won with a par on the second playoff hole
- Dou’s solo second marked his second runner-up finish in his last six Korn Ferry Tour starts
- Dou was the solo 54-hole leader by one stroke, which marked the third 54-hole lead of his Korn Ferry Tour career; he won both of the previous events (one in 2017, another in 2019)
- **Seonghyeon Kim** followed a T19 in his debut Korn Ferry Tour start with the lowest final-round score (6-under 66), which took him from T11 after the third round to a solo third finish
- **Tain Lee** turned in a career-high finish in his 31st Korn Ferry Tour start, usurping his T30 from the 2015 Chile Classic in his only previous season as a Korn Ferry Tour member
- **Erik Barnes** logged his first top-25 since a solo second at the 2021 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS last July
- **Kevin Roy** posted a career-high finish, topping a T5 from the 2021 Veritex Bank Championship last April; he is in his third season as a Korn Ferry Tour member and made his 54th start last week

About Korn Ferry Tour

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour identifies and develops golf's next stars, preparing them to compete and win on the game's biggest stage. The Korn Ferry Tour, which has served as a path to the PGA TOUR since its inception, began providing 50 PGA TOUR cards annually in 2013. Each season, the top 25 players secure PGA TOUR cards via the Korn Ferry Tour’s regular season, and an additional 25 players secure promotion through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

With more than 595 PGA TOUR titles, 25 major championships and six FedExCup champions, Korn Ferry Tour alumni make up over 80 percent of the PGA TOUR’s current membership. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.com or follow the Korn Ferry Tour on social media.