



Pre-Tournament Notes – Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation

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Dates: May 5-8, 2022

Where: College Grove, Tennessee

Course: The Grove (Par 72 / 7,368 yards)

Course Designer: Greg Norman (2012)

Field: 156 Players

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

Format: 72-hole stroke play

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Things to Know

- The 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule continues with the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation, the 11th tournament of the 26-event schedule
- This year marks the sixth edition of the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation, which made its first appearance on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule in 2016
- The Grove is hosting the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation for the second consecutive year, as the tournament's previous four installments were played at Nashville Golf & Athletic Club
- Reigning champion Austin Smotherman eventually finished No. 25 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and earned his first PGA TOUR card for the 2021-22 season
- **Carl Yuan**, who finished T2 at last year's Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation, 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)
- Yuan enters this week at No. 1 on the Regular Season Points List, a position he took over and has held since his win at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS (concluded March 20)
- **Seonghyeon Kim**, currently No. 2 on the Regular Season Points List, could become the second player to cross the #TOURBound threshold with a made cut (and completion of the tournament) this week
- 49-year-old **Timothy O'Neal** is playing via Korn Ferry's sponsor exemption, which was awarded for his runner-up performance at the [APGA Tour at Farmers Insurance Open this past January](#); he won three times on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica (twice in 2013, once in 2016), was the 2020 APGA Tour Player of the Year, and has two victories on the APGA Tour this season as he prepares for a run at PGA TOUR Champions once he turns 50 this August
- Notable PGA TOUR players who enjoyed success at the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation:
 - Scottie Scheffler (2019 runner-up) – No. 1 in Official World Golf Ranking, four-time PGA TOUR winner (all in 2021-22 season), including a victory at the 2022 Masters Tournament
 - Cam Davis (2018 Champion) – won 2021 Rocket Mortgage Classic
 - Lanto Griffin (2017 Champion, T2 in 2018) – won 2019 Hewlett Packard Enterprise Houston Open
 - Abraham Ancer (2017 runner-up) – won the 2021 FedEx St. Jude Championship
 - Mito Pereira (T3 in 2017, T9 in 2021) – earned the Three-Victory Promotion to the PGA TOUR with three victories during the 2020-21 season

- Joel Dahmen (T3 in 2016) – won 2021 Corales Puntacana Championship
- Ryan Brehm (T6 in 2019) – won 2022 Puerto Rico Open

Local Ties

- Five Tennessee natives are in the field: **Eric Axley** (Athens), **Grant Hirschman** (Memphis), **Braden Thornberry** (Germantown), and sponsor exemptions **Jason Millard** (Murfreesboro) and **Nolan Ray** (Nashville)
- Four Tennessee residents are in the field: **Dawson Armstrong** (Brentwood), Axley (Knoxville), and open qualifiers **Blake Maum** (Chattanooga) and **Cody proveaux** (Murfreesboro)
 - Since July 2020, proveaux has served as an assistant coach for the Middle Tennessee State University men’s golf program; he will make his third career Korn Ferry Tour start this week, and his younger brother, **Caleb proveaux**, will make his sixth start of the season this week and gained entry into the field Tuesday afternoon
- Seven players played collegiately in the state of Tennessee: Armstrong (Lipscomb), **John Augenstein** (Vanderbilt), Axley (East Tennessee State), **Erik Barnes** (Austin Peay State), **Will Gordon** (Vanderbilt), Millard (Middle Tennessee State), and Ray (Tennessee)

Field Notes (as of 5/3/22)

- Field is headlined by 23 of the top-25 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, currently led by **Carl Yuan**
- **Seonghyeon Kim** (No. 140) and Yuan (No. 185) are the field’s top players in the Official World Golf Ranking
- Nine of the first 10 champions of the 2022 season are in the field, with the lone exception being Brandon Matthews, who is playing this week’s Wells Fargo Championship via a sponsor exemption
- Field includes 44 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 59 total victories, led by **Daniel Chopra** and **Heath Slocum** with three apiece
- Field Includes nine PGA TOUR winners with 22 total victories, led by **Ben Crane** with five
- Eight players gained entry via Monday qualifying, led by Greystone Golf Club medalist **Will Dickson**, who previously Monday qualified for the Club Car Championship at The Landings Club this season, and Old Fort Golf Course co-medalists **Lukas Euler**, who previously Monday qualified for the LECOM Suncoast Classic this season, and **Blake Maum**, who qualified for the second consecutive week
 - **Wes Homan** qualified via the Greystone Golf Club site and will make his first PGA TOUR-sanctioned start since the 2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic, and his first Korn Ferry Tour start since the 2017 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS; he won on PGA TOUR Canada in 2014 and the 38-year-old’s last full season on a PGA TOUR-sanctioned tour was 2015, after which he took a full-time job outside of golf to support his three children
 - **Riley Elmes**, who qualified via the Greystone site, will make his first PGA TOUR-sanctioned start
- **Chip McDaniel** successfully Monday qualified into last week’s Huntsville Championship and finished T13 for a spot in this week’s field

The Chase for PGA TOUR Cards

#	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	#TOURBound Result
1	Carl Yuan	941	1	4	#TOURBound
2	Seonghyeon Kim	899	--	4	Made Cut
3	Byeong Hun An	880	1	2	2-way T35 or higher
4	Brandon Matthews	835	1	2	Solo 12th, 3-way T11 or higher
5	Trevor Werbylo	812	1	3	Solo 7th, 4-way T6 or higher
6	Erik Barnes	680	--	5	2-way T2, solo 2nd, or win
7	Ben Griffin	635	--	4	Solo 2nd or win
8	T.J. Vogel	635	1	2	Solo 2nd or win
9	Tyson Alexander	609	1	2	Solo 2nd or win

10	Ben Taylor	597	--	3	Win
11	Zecheng Dou	588	--	2	Win
12	Harrison Endycott	573	1	1	Win
13	Carson Young	572	1	1	Win
14	Brandon Harkins	560	1	1	Win
15	Eric Cole	551	--	4	Win
16	Akshay Bhatia	520	1	1	Win
17	MJ Daffue	511	--	3	Win
18	Paul Haley II	447	--	2	Win
19	Justin Suh	405	--	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 13 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 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation Recap (May 6-9)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Austin Smotherman	66	69	69	69	272 (-16)
T2	Paul Haley II	68	68	69	70	275 (-13)
	Carl Yuan	70	67	67	71	275 (-13)
4	David Skinnis	68	69	67	72	276 (-12)

- Austin Smotherman led or co-led all four rounds en route to his first Korn Ferry Tour win, which propelled him to the final spot in The 25 at regular season's end
- Smotherman shared the 54-hole lead with **Brent Grant**, but closed with a 3-under 69 for a three-stroke victory; he was the only player in the field who posted four rounds in the 60s
- Smotherman followed a three-putt bogey at the par-4 16th with a chip-in birdie from the collection area left of the par-4 17th green, effectively sealing the victory
- Smotherman led last year's field in greens in regulation (59 of 72) and tied for second in fairway accuracy (49 of 56)
- **Paul Haley II** recorded his second runner-up finish of the season and fourth of his career; he has since logged a fifth runner-up finish at the season-opening 2022 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
- **Carl Yuan** recorded his third T2 finish of the 2020-21 season

- Birdies on two of his final five holes moved David Skinnis up to solo fourth, a season-high finish at the time; he later rattled off four top-10s in the final five regular season events, punctuated by a win in the regular season finale to secure his first PGA TOUR card

Past Champions – Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2021	Austin Smotherman	65	69	69	69	272 (-16)	3
2019	Robby Shelton	64	73	65	71	273 (-15)	Playoff
2018	Cameron Davis	67	71	67	65	270 (-18)	1
2017	Lanto Griffin	72	70	62	68	272 (-16)	Playoff
2016	James Driscoll	65	68	69	67	269 (-19)	3

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 62, Conrad Shindler (2017, Round 1) and Lanto Griffin (2017, Round 3)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 130, Sebastián Muñoz (2018)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 199, Lanto Griffin (2018)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 269, James Driscoll (2016)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 3, James Driscoll (2016) and Austin Smotherman (2021)
- Playoffs: 2 (2017 – Lanto Griffin def. Abraham Ancer; 2019 – Robby Shelton def. Scottie Scheffler)

Course Information – The Grove

- Years Hosted: 2021-Present
- Scoring Average (2021): 72.239 / +0.239
 - The Grove ranked as the No. 9 toughest course (based on scoring average) on the 46-event 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour schedule
- Toughest Hole (2021): No. 3, Par 3, 210 yards – 3.295 / +0.295
- Easiest Hole (2021): No. 2, Par 5, 539 yards – 4.602 / -0.398
- Course Record: 64, **Brent Grant** (2021, Round 3)

Last Week on Tour – Huntsville Championship (April 28-May 1)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Harrison Endycott	63	67	64	70	264 (-16)
2	Ben Taylor	68	67	64	70	269 (-11)
3	Erik Barnes	64	65	72	69	270 (-10)
T4	Kris Ventura	68	66	71	66	271 (-9)
	Quade Cummins	68	64	68	71	271 (-9)

- **Harrison Endycott** earned his first professional victory (he turned professional in fall 2017) and became the ninth first-time winner through the first 10 Korn Ferry Tour events
- Endycott co-lead after 18 holes and held a five-stroke lead after the third round, the largest 54-hole lead in a Korn Ferry Tour event since April 2019, making him the first player this season to lead or co-lead after 18, 36, or 54 holes and win the tournament
- Endycott's five-stroke margin of victory was the largest in a Korn Ferry Tour event since Cameron Young's five-stroke win at the 2021 NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank
- **Ben Taylor** posted his highest finish in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play since a T2 at the 2019 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour
- **Erik Barnes** recorded his fourth top-five finish of the season; he remains the only player with made cuts in each of the first 10 events this season
- **Kris Ventura** led the field with 22 birdies and recorded his highest finish in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since a T4 at the 2020 Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass
- Rookie **Quade Cummins** logged a career-high finish in his eighth career Korn Ferry Tour start