

Final-Round Notes – Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Course Setup: The Abaco Club on Winding Bay – Par 72 / 7,141 yards

Media Contact: Zach Dirlam – ZachDirlam@pgatourhq.com (517-262-5109)

Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
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	Kevin Roy	68-69-68-70—275 (-13)
	Tain Lee	71-66-68-70—275 (-13)
	Erik Barnes	72-67-64-72—275 (-13)

* - won with par on second playoff hole

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Brandon Harkins captures first Korn Ferry Tour victory at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club

GREAT ABACO, The Bahamas – Brandon Harkins wondered whether he would ever win a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event.

The 35-year-old California State University-Chico graduate came close (twice) in 2017, his rookie year on the Korn Ferry Tour which saw him earn PGA TOUR membership at season's end. In the final round of The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, Harkins' 179th start in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event, the Walnut Creek, California native erased a two-stroke deficit across the final three holes of regulation and prevailed over two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner Zecheng Dou in a playoff.

Harkins celebrated the victory with a beer shower courtesy of Roberto Díaz, who concluded his own [long, winding journey to the winner's circle](#) last year. Harkins' wife, Rachel, could not attend. The couple celebrated the birth of their second son, Hunter, a month ago, so Rachel was needed at home rather than in The Bahamas alongside Harkins.

Immediately after tapping in the winning par putt on the second playoff hole, Harkins' only thoughts were of his family back home.

"It's unbelievable. I'm starting to get a little bit emotional," Harkins said. "This is for my wife and my two boys at home. My wife means the world to me, and she is the most supportive person I've ever met. She just always pushes me to be better, and she's the best mom to our boys (Jackson and Hunter). This win, it feels great, but you know what, it's for them, it's for my family, my mom, my brother, everyone.

“Can't wait to get home and give them a big hug.”

Harkins, who turned professional in 2010, had his first brush with victory at the 2013 The Great Waterway Classic on PGA TOUR Canada, when he shot a 10-under 62 in the final round and lost by a stroke. The next came at the Korn Ferry Tour's 2017 Country Club de Bogota Championship, where he bogeyed three of the final six holes and missed a playoff by one stroke. Later that season, Harkins shot a 4-under 66 in the final round of the Ellie Mae Classic, only to see Martin Piller take the title by a stroke with a 6-under 64.

And despite a birdie-eagle finish at the 2020 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar, Harkins finished four strokes behind the champion, Jared Wolfe, in solo second.

“There's been weeks where I felt like I've played pretty darn good and haven't won,” Harkins said. “Playing the PGA TOUR is great, it's what we all strive to do, but, with that said, everyone wants to win, and this is my first big win out here. This means a lot to me. I will never forget this.”

On the back nine Wednesday, Harkins followed consecutive birdies at Nos. 13 and 14 with a bogey at the par-4 15th. The dropped shot put him two strokes behind Dou, a fellow 2017 Korn Ferry Tour graduate who [converted two previous 54-hole leads into victories](#).

As Dou put his tee shot in the penalty area at the par-4 16th and missed a short par putt, Harkins saved par from the front greenside bunker. As Dou hit a fairway wood from the right rough and faded it into the penalty area at the par-5 18th, eventually making another bogey, Harkins found the fairway off the tee, played his next two shots from the short grass and two-putted for a playoff-forcing par.

The two went back to the 18th tee and made two-putt pars on the first playoff hole. The second time around on No. 18 tee, Dou drove it in the penalty area, took a drop, and hit into the penalty area again, all but ending his title aspirations.

Harkins flirted with the penalty area off the tee – enough to make him nervous on the walk to his ball – but avoided disaster. The Scottsdale, Arizona resident “chipped” a 7-iron down the fairway, landed a 5-iron on the green, and two-putted up the hill to seal the win.

“I just told myself all day [that] I believed in my ability and my talent, and I just really tried to focus on sticking to my process and playing my game, and seeing how we stood at the end,” Harkins said. “It's a lot easier said than done when you get in the heat of things, but, for the most part, I did a really nice job of that today, and I owe a lot of credit to my caddie. He's been doing an unbelievable job with me, and he keeps me very calm and we're having fun out there.”

The victory moves Harkins to the top of the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, 21 points ahead of [last week's winner](#), Akshay Bhatia, who missed the cut. Harkins earned 500 points for this week's win, and 21 points for a T33 in the season opener.

Harkins' first career win also came with quite a bonus: honorary membership at The Abaco Club, presented personally by 2011 The Open Championship winner Darren Clarke.

While Harkins is hoping to return to the PGA TOUR at season's end rather than beginning preparations for a title defense in 2023, he intends to take advantage of the perk. After all, Harkins has to show his family where he became a Korn Ferry Tour champion.

"One hundred percent, we will be back," Harkins said. "It's such a beautiful place. I know my family will love it."

The 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season continues next Thursday, February 3 with the opening round of the Panama Championship.

Final-Round Notes

- **Brandon Harkins** (1st / -18) graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following the 2017 season, when he earned his PGA TOUR card via a No. 21 finish in the regular season; he qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs in his debut TOUR season, but fell back to the Korn Ferry Tour after he finished 165th in the 2019 FedExCup Standings
- **Zecheng Dou** (2nd / -18) posted his second top-three finish at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, as he was previously solo third at the 2017 playing of the event
- Dou has two runner-up finishes in his last six Korn Ferry Tour starts; he finished T2 at the 2020-21 regular season finale, the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna, last August
- Dou is in his fourth season as a Korn Ferry Tour member, having graduated to the PGA TOUR as a 20-year-old rookie following the 2017 season; he finished No. 28 and No. 33 in the 2019 and 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, respectively
- **Seonghyeon Kim** (3rd / -16), a 23-year-old native of South Korea, rose to solo third behind the best round of the day, a 6-under 66; he has top-25s in the first two Korn Ferry Tour starts of his career, as he was T19 at last week's The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
 - 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](#)
- In his 31st Korn Ferry Tour start, **Tain Lee** (T4 / -13) turned in a career-high finish, which was previously a T30 at the 2015 Chile Classic in his only other season as a Korn Ferry Tour member
 - Lee was the 2010 Jack Nicklaus Award at the NCAA Division III level off the strength of winning the individual national title that year
- Playing out of the final group, **Erik Barnes** (T4 / -13) shot an even-par 72 and posted his first top-25 since a solo second at the 2021 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS last July
 - Barnes finished in the top 75 of the regular season standings four of the last five seasons, including a No. 31 finish in 2020-21
- In his 54th Korn Ferry Tour start (and in his third season as a member), **Kevin Roy** (T4 / -13) posted a career-high finish, trumping a T5 from the 2021 Veritex Bank Championship last April;
- Roy has five career top-10s, two of which have come at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic, as he finished T9 in the 2020 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar
- The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club was the second 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, Brandon Harkins; he also received 500 Korn Ferry Tour points, and an honorary membership at The Abaco Club
 - 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 2023
- Weather: Partly cloudy, high of 78 degrees, wind S/SW at 10-15 mph (gusts up to 22 mph)