



Pre-Tournament Notes – The Ascendant presented by Blue

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Dates: June 30 - July 3, 2022

Where: Berthoud, Colorado

Course: TPC Colorado (Par 72 / 7,995 yards)

Course Designer: Art Schaupeter (2018)

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 Ascendant presented by Blue returns to TPC Colorado for the fourth playing of the event
- This week's The Ascendant presented by Blue is the 19th tournament of the 23-event regular season and 26-event 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule
- TPC Colorado is the longest course in Korn Ferry Tour history (7,995 yards, four more than last year's setup) and the 773-yard par-5 13th is the longest hole in Tour history, as well as the longest in PGA TOUR-sanctioned tournament play
- Reigning champion Tag Ridings withdrew from the field earlier this week; he saved par on the 72nd hole and defeated David Skinns and **Kevin Yu** on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff (the par-3 16th both times) to win last year's event
- Five of the top 10 finishers from last year's event are back in the field: Yu (T2), **Tyson Alexander** (T4), **Vince India** (6th), **Blayne Barber** (T10) and **Julián Etulain** (T10)
- Will Zalatoris won the 2020 The Ascendant presented by Blue for his first PGA TOUR-sanctioned win, which propelled him to the No. 1 spot on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List; he led the points list following the conclusion of the next 13 events, despite the fact his last Korn Ferry Tour start was September 2020
- Zalatoris secured Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR and played fall 2020 and all of 2021 on TOUR; he eventually earned TOUR membership via his place in The 25 (No. 9 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List)
- This season, only Zalatoris and Rory McIlroy were top-10 at all three major championships, and Zalatoris stands No. 9 in the FedExCup Standings
- **Nelson Ledesma**, winner of the inaugural playing of The Ascendant in 2019, returns to the field
- Eight players (all of whom are in the field this week) have achieved #TOURBound status this season, with **Trevor Werbylo** being the latest to cross the 875-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)

Field Notes (as of 6/28/22)

- Field is headlined by 24 of the top 25 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, including points leader **Carl Yuan**

- Yuan (No. 146) and **Seonghyeon Kim** (No. 158) are the field’s top players in the Official World Golf Ranking
- Field includes 40 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 53 total victories, led by **Daniel Chopra** and **Robby Shelton** with three apiece
- Field Includes five PGA TOUR winners with seven total victories, led by **Sangmoon Bae** and **Daniel Chopra** with two apiece
- Eight players gained entry into the field via Monday’s open qualifier, highlighted by medalist **Geoff Keffer**, a Coloradoan, and amateur **Preston Summerhays**, who was the 2022 Pac-12 Freshman of the Year at Arizona State University and made his only previous Korn Ferry Tour start at the 2020 Utah Championship
- Players with local ties in the field include:
 - Colorado natives **George Cunningham** (Louisville) and sponsor exemption **Derek Oland** (Highlands Ranch)
 - Colorado residents **Tyler McCumber** (Lyons), **Sam Saunders** (Fort Collins), and **Kyle Westmoreland** (Colorado Springs)
 - Played collegiately in the state of Colorado: **Jeremy Paul** (University of Colorado), **Westmoreland** (United States Air Force), and **Tom Whitney** (United States Air Force)

The Chase for PGA TOUR Cards

#	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	#TOURBound Result
1	Carl Yuan	1,417	1	6	#TOURBound
2	Ben Griffin	1,098	--	5	#TOURBound
3	Brandon Matthews	949	1	2	#TOURBound
4	Seonghyeon Kim	939	--	4	#TOURBound
5	MJ Daffue	926	--	5	#TOURBound
6	Byeong Hun An	890	1	2	#TOURBound
7	Erik Barnes	881	--	6	#TOURBound
8	Trevor Werbylo	878	1	3	#TOURBound
9	Taylor Montgomery	852	--	5	2-way T33 or higher
10	Tyson Alexander	848	1	4	2-way T30 or higher
11	Davis Thompson	834	1	3	Solo-22nd, 3-way T21 or higher
12	Paul Haley II	818	--	4	Solo-14th, 3-way T13 or higher
13	Anders Albertson	783	1	3	2-way T6 or higher
14	Harry Hall	761	1	2	3-way T4 or higher
15	Robby Shelton	746	1	2	Solo-4th, 4-way T3 or higher
16	Augusto Núñez	723	--	6	2-way T3 or higher
17	Brent Grant	720	1	2	2-way T3 or higher
18	Brandon Harkins	708	1	1	Solo 3rd, 5-way T2 or higher
19	Zecheng Dou	707	--	3	Solo-3rd, 4-way T2 or higher
20	Ben Taylor	705	--	3	Solo-3rd, 4-way T2 or higher
21	T.J. Vogel	691	1	2	Solo-3rd, 4-way T2 or higher
22	Vincent Norrman	688	--	3	Solo-3rd, 3-way T2 or higher
	Nos. 23-25				3-way T2 or higher
	Nos. 26-27				2-way T2, solo-2nd or win
	Nos. 28-33				Solo-2nd or win
	Nos. 34-44				Win

- With four events remaining in the regular season, the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using 875 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)

- 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

2021 The Ascendant presented by Blue Recap

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Tag Ridings	70	68	66	68	272 (-16)
T2	David Skinns	69	69	69	65	272 (-16)
	Kevin Yu	68	67	70	67	272 (-16)
T4	Taylor Pendrith	70	70	65	68	273 (-15)
	Tyson Alexander	65	66	71	71	273 (-15)

- Tag Ridings ended the longest drought between wins in Korn Ferry Tour history (6,895 days) as he earned a spot in a three-man sudden death playoff with a par save on the 72nd hole, made a 13-footer for a playoff-extending birdie on the first extra hole, the par-3 16th, and two-putted for a tournament-winning par on the second playoff hole (No. 16 again) for the win over David Skinns and **Kevin Yu**
- Skinns carded the lowest final round with a 7-under 65 and earned a spot in the playoff, but fell short on the second playoff hole, lipping out a 15-footer from the fringe for par
- Skinns, 39 last year, went on and won the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna a month later, which catapulted him to a No. 22 finish on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and his first PGA TOUR card
- In his fourth professional start, Yu took the outright lead with three birdies in a four-hole stretch (Nos. 13-16) in the final round, but bogeyed the 72nd hole and was eliminated on the first hole of the playoff
- Taylor Pendrith bogeyed the 72nd hole and finished one stroke out of the playoff, though he earned a PGA TOUR card via The 25 at regular season’s end
- **Tyson Alexander** held a share of the 54-hole lead, but settled for T4, his second consecutive top-10 at the event, after a 1-under 71 in the final round

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2021	Tag Ridings	70	68	66	68	272 (-16)	Playoff
2020	Will Zalatoris	67	67	70	69	273 (-15)	1
2019	Nelson Ledesma	65	69	69	70	273 (-15)	1

Course Information – TPC Colorado

- Years Hosted: 2019-Present
- Scoring Average (2021): 71.439 / -0.561
- Toughest Hole (2021): No. 14, Par 3, 273 yards – 3.309 / +0.309
- Easiest Hole (2021): No. 5, Par 5, 624 yards – 4.494 / -0.506

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 63, Chase Johnson (2020, Round 4), Greyson Sigg (2020, Round 4), and Taylor Moore (2021, Round 1)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 131, Tyson Alexander (2021)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 202, Taylor Moore and Tyson Alexander (2021)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 272, Tag Ridings, David Skinns, and Kevin Yu (2021)

Last Week on Tour – Live and Work in Maine (June 23-26)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Pierceson Coody	69	62	67	66	264 (-20)
2	Jacob Bergeron	66	70	67	66	269 (-15)
T3	Nelson Ledesma	68	66	70	66	270 (-14)
	Will Gordon	68	69	67	66	270 (-14)
	Fabian Gomez	68	66	66	70	270 (-14)
	Cole Anderson (a)	67	67	64	72	270 (-14)

- In his third professional start, **Pierceson Coody**, who finished No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2022, ran away with a five-stroke victory and tied the largest margin of victory on the Korn Ferry Tour this season
- **Jacob Bergeron**, a conditional member, fired a bogey-free final round of 5-under 66 to post a career-high finish; his previous career-high finish on the Korn Ferry Tour was a T23 at the 2022 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics
- **Will Gordon** recorded his second top-four finish in his last three starts and third top-10 of the season
- Playing as a sponsor exemption, amateur **Cole Anderson** shared the 54-hole lead with Coody in a bid to become the fourth amateur winner in Korn Ferry Tour history, but shot a 1-over 72 in the final round and fell to T3; the top-25 earned him a spot in this week's field