



Pre-Tournament Notes – Visit Knoxville Open

On-Site PGA TOUR Media Contacts: Hagan Parkman, 817-983-3251, haganparkman@pgatourhq.com

Dates: May 12-15, 2022

Where: Knoxville, Tennessee

Course: Holston Hills Country Club (Par 70 / 7,163 yards)

Course Designer: Donald Ross (1927), Tom Doak (1998 renovation)

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 for a third consecutive week with the Visit Knoxville Open, the 12 tournament of the 26-event season
- This will be the 32nd edition of the Visit Knoxville Open, one of four tournaments on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule held every season since the Tour's establishment in 1990
 - The other three events with such distinction are the Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics, Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper, and the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron
- The historic Holston Hills Country Club, a Donald Ross design which opened in 1927, is hosting the Visit Knoxville Open for a second consecutive year
- Reigning champion Greyson Sigg eventually finished No. 6 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and earned his first PGA TOUR card for the 2021-22 season
- Notable past champions of the Visit Knoxville Open include three-time PGA TOUR winner Jeff Maggert (1990), three-time TOUR winner J.J. Henry (2000), four-time TOUR winner and Knoxville native Chris Kirk (2010), TOUR winner and Knoxville resident Peter Malnati (2013), as well as recent TOUR winners J.J. Spaun (2016) and Talor Gooch (2017)
- The only two-time champions of the Visit Knoxville Open are Hunter Haas (2004, 2006) and all-time Korn Ferry Tour money leader Darron Stiles (2002, 2012)
- **Carl Yuan** and **Seonghyeon Kim** are the only players 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 finished T7 at last year's Visit Knoxville Open

Local Ties

- Four Tennessee natives are in the field: **Grant Hirschman** (Memphis), **Braden Thornberry** (Germantown), sponsor exemption **David Holmes** (Knoxville), and Monday qualifier **Nolan Ray** (Nashville)
- Four Tennessee residents are in the field: **Dawson Armstrong** (Brentwood), sponsor exemption **Thomas Forster** (Maryville), Holmes (Knoxville) and Ray (Spring Hill)

- Nine players played collegiately in the state of Tennessee: Armstrong (Lipscomb), **John Augenstein** (Vanderbilt), **Erik Barnes** (Austin Peay State), Forster (Carson-Newman) **Will Gordon** (Vanderbilt), Holmes (Tennessee), **Theo Humphrey** (Vanderbilt), Ray (Tennessee / Lipscomb), and **Ashton Van Horne** (Belmont)

Field Notes (as of 5/10/22)

- 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. 143) and Yuan are the top players in the field in the Official World Golf Ranking
- Field includes 48 past Korn Ferry Tour winners, including 10 of the 11 champions from the 2022 season, with 62 total victories, led by **Heath Slocum** with three
- Field Includes past 11 PGA TOUR winners with 24 total victories, led by **Carl Pettersson** with five
- Eight players gained entry into the field via open qualifying Monday, led by Three Ridges Golf Course co-medalists **Nolan Ray** and **Cooper Mussleman**, and four co-medalists at the Oak Ridge Country Club site
 - Ray, a Spring Hill, Tennessee resident who played four seasons at University of Tennessee and a fifth season at Lipscomb University, made his Korn Ferry Tour debut last week as a sponsor exemption at the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation (missed cut)
 - Musselman, who's played primarily on PGA TOUR Canada since he turned professional in 2018, played the 2019 and 2021 Visit Knoxville Opens as a sponsor exemption; he has five career Korn Ferry Tour starts, with one of his two made cuts being a T41 at last year's Visit Knoxville Open
 - **Greg Edwards** survived a 7-for-2 playoff at the Three Ridges site and will make his first appearance in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event; he has been an assistant pro at East Lake Golf Club since March 2019
 - **Jared Sawada**, one of four co-medalists at Oak Ridge Country Club, reached Final Stage of the last two Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournaments, but finished outside the top 100 both times and has just one previous Korn Ferry Tour start (missed cut at 2021 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, which he Monday qualified into)
 - **Daniel Wetterich**, another co-medalist from Oak Ridge, reached Final Stage of the last two Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournaments as well, but finished T92 and T135 and has just three career starts on Tour; he previously Monday qualified into the 2021 MGM Resorts Championship at Paiute
 - **Brian Richey** successfully Monday qualified for the third time this year
 - **Bo Hayes**, another co-medalist from Oak Ridge, will make his Korn Ferry Tour debut after seven career starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, where he has membership for 2022
- Two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Andres Gonzales**, Chairman of the Korn Ferry Tour Player Advisory Council, will play this week as a sponsor exemption; he still has membership via the "Past Champions 5-10 Years" category from wins in 2012 and 2014
- Korn Ferry awarded its sponsor exemption to **Everett Whiten Jr.**, a senior at Howard University; he finished T3 and helped Howard win the team title at the 2022 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship, and was second to teammate Gregory Odom as Howard won the 2022 PGA Works Collegiate in Philadelphia last week

The Chase for PGA TOUR Cards

#	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	#TOURBound Result
1	Carl Yuan	955	1	4	#TOURBound
2	Seonghyeon Kim	905	--	4	#TOURBound
3	Byeong Hun An	890	1	2	Solo 47th, 3-way T46 or higher
4	Brandon Matthews	835	1	2	Solo 12th, 3-way T11 or higher
5	Trevor Werbylo	833	1	3	2-way T11, 4-way T10 or higher
6	Erik Barnes	718	--	5	Solo 3rd, 4-way T2 or higher
7	Zecheng Dou	688	--	3	2-way T2, Solo 2nd or win

8	Ben Griffin	682	--	4	2-way T2, Solo 2nd or win
9	Tyson Alexander	656	1	2	2-way T2, Solo 2nd or win
10	Ben Taylor	644	--	3	Solo 2nd or win
11	T.J. Vogel	635	1	2	Solo 2nd or win
12	Brent Grant	604	1	2	Solo 2nd or win
13	Carson Young	602	1	1	Solo 2nd or win
14	Harrison Endycott	582	1	1	Win
15	Brandon Harkins	564	1	1	Win
16	Eric Cole	551	--	4	Win
17	MJ Daffue	531	--	3	Win
18	Akshay Bhatia	524	1	1	Win
19	Paul Haley II	484	--	2	Win
20	Justin Suh	435	--	3	Win

- With 12 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)
- 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 Visit Knoxville Open Recap (May 13-16, 2021)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Greyson Sigg	61	68	65	66	260 (-20)
2	Stephan Jaeger	64	62	65	70	261 (-19)
3	Seth Reeves	68	64	70	61	263 (-17)
T4	Harrison Endycott	65	65	66	68	264 (-16)
	Max Greyserman	64	68	68	64	264 (-14)

- Greyson Sigg made a 6-footer for par on the 72 hole and earned a one-stroke victory over 36- and 54-hole leader Stephan Jaeger, who was bidding to earn the Three-Victory Promotion
- Sigg eventually won for a second time later in the year at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron and finished No. 2 on the cumulative 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, earning his first PGA TOUR card
- There were seven on-stroke swings between Sigg and Jaeger in the final round
- Jaeger missed a 6-footer for birdie at the par-5 18th, which would have forced a playoff
- Jaeger eventually finished No. 1 on the cumulative and regular season 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and returned to the PGA TOUR
- Seth Reeves fired a final round 9-under 61, matching the course record Sigg tied in the first round
- Reeves eventually finished No. 20 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List and returned to the PGA TOUR
- **Harrison Endycott** birdied two of his final three holes and moved inside the top five; the T4 marked his career-high finish on Tour until [his recent win](#) at the Huntsville Championship

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2021	Greyson Sigg	61	68	65	66	260 (-20)	1
2019	Robby Shelton	67	65	66	71	269 (-15)	1
2018	Stephan Jaeger	68	72	64	64	268 (-16)	3
2017	Talor Gooch	66	67	68	65	266 (-18)	1
2016	J.J. Spaun	66	62	64	66	258 (-26)	1
2015	Patton Kizzire	68	68	64	64	264 (-20)	4
2014	Martin Piller	65	67	67	63	262 (-22)	2
2013	Peter Malnati	70	67	66	65	268 (-16)	1
2012	Darron Stiles	67	66	66	67	266 (-18)	1
2011	Kirk Triplett	67	64	68	68	267 (-21)	2
2010	Chris Kirk	68	70	63	67	268 (-20)	2
2009	Kevin Johnson	67	65	68	68	268 (-20)	Playoff
2008	Jarrod Lyle	66	67	67	69	269 (-19)	Playoff
2007	Chez Reavie	68	70	65	68	271 (-17)	3
2006	Hunter Haas	67	66	67	69	269 (-19)	5
2005	Kim Felton	71	70	67	69	277 (-11)	1
2004	Hunter Haas	71	68	67	69	275 (-13)	Playoff
2003	Vaughn Taylor	68	69	67	64	268 (-20)	Playoff
2002	Darron Stiles	71	69	64	68	272 (-16)	1
2001	Heath Slocum	64	68	65	68	265 (-23)	6
2000	J.J. Henry	67	67	66	73	273 (-15)	1
1999	Jeff Gove	69	69	68	71	277 (-11)	1
1998	Robin Freeman	68	66	66	70	270 (-18)	Playoff
1997	Dave Rummells	65	70	70	66	271 (-17)	2
1996	Eric Johnson	68	66	69	69	272 (-16)	2
1995	Tom Scherrer	71	69	68	67	275 (-13)	Playoff
1994	Vic Wilk	70	71	68	66	275 (-9)	1
1993	Tim Conley	65	63	66	67	261 (-23)	7
1992	Brian Henninger	70	67	63		200 (-13)	2
1991	Frank Conner	63	68	67		198 (-15)	1
1990	Jeff Maggert	70	66	66		202 (-11)	Playoff

Course Information – Holston Hills Country Club

- Years Hosted: 2021-Present
- Scoring Average (2021): 69.214 / -0.786
- Toughest Hole (2021): No. 17, Par 4, 520 yards – 4.255 / +0.255
- Easiest Hole (2021): No. 18, Par 5, 541 yards – 4.640 / -0.360
- Course Record: 61, Seth Reeves (2021, Round 4), Greyson Sigg (2021, Round 1), Andrew Pratt (2004), Walt Chapman (1993)

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 61, Seth Reeves (2021, Round 4), Greyson Sigg (2021, Round 1), Grayson Murray (2016, Round 2), Keith Mitchell (2016, Round 1)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 126, Stephan Jaeger (2021)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 191, Sam Ryder (2016) and Stephan Jaeger (2021)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 258, J.J. Spaun (2016)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 7, Tim Conley (1993)
- Playoffs: 7, last in 2009 (Kevin Johnson defeated Bradley Iles)

Last Week on Tour – Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation (May 5-9)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Brent Grant	69	95	69	69	272 (-16)
2	Kevin Yu	67	68	67	71	273 (-15)
T3	Zack Fischer	66	69	72	67	274 (-14)
	Vincent Norrman	68	70	69	67	274 (-14)

- **Brent Grant** earned his first professional victory and became the 10th first-time winner through the first 11 Korn Ferry Tour events
- Grant nearly holed a lengthy eagle putt at the par-5 18th, but it carried too much speed and bounced off the back of the cup, leaving him with a kick-in birdie for a one-stroke lead over **Kevin Yu**
- Yu recorded his second runner-up finish and third top-five finish in his 16th Korn Ferry Tour start; he finished T2 at the 2021 Ascendant presented by Blue and T5 at the 2021 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics, where he held the outright 54-hole lead
- Yu had an 11-footer for birdie on the 72nd hole, which would have forced a playoff with Grant, but the putt caught the low-side lip and trickled past the hole
- Zack Fischer posted his highest finish in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play, eclipsing a solo third at the 2016 WinCo Foods Portland Open and T3 at the 2015 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank
- Fischer closed with a 5-under 67, tied for the second-lowest score of the final round alongside **Vincent Norrman**
- In his rookie season, Norrman posted a career-high finish, topping his T12 from The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club earlier this year; he held the outright lead following a birdie at the par-4 16th, but double bogeyed the par-4 17th

Alumni Spotlight

- Korn Ferry Tour graduate Max Homa (Class of 2014) earned his fourth career victory at last week's Wells Fargo Championship
- Homa won the 2014 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX and 2016 Rust-Oleum Championship, graduating at the end of both those regular seasons
- Homa graduated for the final time via the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Finals, though he came close to missing the three-event series entirely and faced the prospect of a return to Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
 - Homa entered the 2018 WinCo Foods Portland Open, the regular season finale, at No. 69 in the standings and stood outside the projected cut line; he birdied the final four holes for a 5-under 30 on the back nine and made the cut on the number, going on to finish T40 and later finishing 15th in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals and earning a PGA TOUR card for the 2018-19 season
 - Homa won the 2019 Wells Fargo Championship for fully exempt status on TOUR, and followed it up with wins at the 2021 The Genesis Invitational, 2021 Fortinet Championship, and 2022 Wells Fargo Championship