

### Final-Round Notes – Sunday, June 19, 2022

**Course Setup:** Crestview Country Club (Par 70 / 6,910 yards)

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#### Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Norman Xiong	66-61-64-63—254 (-26)
2	Kevin Roy	62-66-67-64—259 (-21)
3	Kevin Yu	67-63-62-68—260 (-20)

#### Quick Links

- [Complete Leaderboard](#)
- [Tournament Media Site](#) (interviews and other resources available for download)

### Open qualifier Norman Xiong wins Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics, earns Korn Ferry Tour membership with runaway victory

**WICHITA, Kansas** – The Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics has been on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule since its establishment in 1990 and was played for the 33rd time this week, but this historic event had never seen anything like the victorious week Norman Xiong capped off Sunday evening.

Xiong, who began the week without status on a PGA TOUR-sanctioned circuit and Monday qualified into the tournament, posted a final-round 7-under 63 and totaled a 26-under 254, tying the second-lowest 72-hole score in Korn Ferry Tour history. The only lower 72-hole total came from Stephan Jaeger, who shot a 12-under 58 en route to a 30-under 250 at the 2016 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae. Xiong posted the remarkable winning total despite a double bogey at the par-4 18th Sunday.

#### Lowest 72-Hole Scores in Korn Ferry Tour History

Score	Player	Tournament
250 (-30)	Stephan Jaeger	2016 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae
<b>254 (-26)</b>	<b>Norman Xiong</b>	<b>2022 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics</b>
255 (-29)	Steve Wheatcroft	2011 Melwood Prince George's County Open
256 (-28)	Martin Piller	2015 Albertsons Boise Open
257 (-23)	Rhein Gibson	2016 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae
257 (-27)	Michael Arnaud	2018 BMW Charity Pro-Am
257 (-23)	Trevor Cone	2018 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae
257 (-27)	Taylor Moore	2021 Memorial Health Championship

Xiong finished five strokes clear of Kevin Roy, who settled for solo-second even as he tied the previous 72-hole tournament scoring record of 21-under 259 set by Aaron Wise in 2017. While Xiong and Wise were not teammates at the University of Oregon (they were two years apart), both turned professional following their sophomore seasons and won the Wichita Open by a tournament-record five strokes.

Xiong's first PGA TOUR-sanctioned victory made him the 25th open qualifier in Korn Ferry Tour history to win the tournament, and the first since Rick Lamb's victory as an open qualifier at the 2016 LECOM Health Challenge. Xiong also joined five-time PGA TOUR winner Ben Crane (2000) and two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner Sebastian Cappelén (2014) as open qualifiers who won the Wichita Open.

"I really don't know how I'm feeling just because I didn't really expect to be here," Xiong said. "I just knew I couldn't really let up today. I think that just shows how tough it is out here, and I think you can only recognize how much of a battle it is for all these players out here. It's a really tough sport."

Xiong started the final round at 19-under par and had a goal of reaching 22-under. After a birdie-eagle-birdie stretch from Nos. 2-4, Xiong needed a new goal, so he turned his sights to the low round of the day, a 10-under 60 by Justin Suh which broke the tournament's 18-hole scoring record and Crestview Country Club course record.

Xiong played the next 10 holes at 3-under par with birdies at Nos. 6, 7, 10, and 14, and a bogey at the par-4 11th. A hole-out eagle at the par-4 16th took Xiong to 9-under for the day and brought him within range of Suh's record-breaking round. Xiong's tee shot at the par-4 18th caromed out of bounds and led to a double bogey.

Even with two putts on the 72nd hole, Xiong finished with 94 for the week, breaking a Korn Ferry Tour single-tournament record for the fewest putts. The previous record was 95 putts by both Grant Waite (2003 Miccosukee Championship) and Lanto Griffin (2017 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation).

"I just tried my best to get there and fell short on the last hole, kind of choked it, but got the win," Xiong said. "A lot of things just went my way. I got a lot of good breaks, a lot of putts dropped. It's kind of what it takes out here to win, to have it be your week and have everything go your way."

Originally from Tamuning, Guam, Xiong moved to San Diego, California with his mother, Jing, and uncle, James Xiong, at age 6. Xiong was a [dedicated participant at First Tee of San Diego](#) and blossomed into a decorated junior golfer, garnering AJGA All-America Second Team honors in 2014 and 2015, followed by a first-team laurel in 2016.

Xiong made his way to Oregon, where he enjoyed immediate success. In addition to being the 2017 National Freshman of the Year, Xiong and teammate Wyndham Clark, now a PGA TOUR member, helped Oregon win the 2017 Pac-12 Championship. Later that summer, Xiong defeated Doc Redman in the title match of the 2017 Western Amateur Championship, joining a list of past champions headlined by Tiger Woods. Xiong also played on the 2017 Walker Cup and Arnold Palmer Cup teams, competing alongside the likes of Sam Burns, Collin Morikawa, Scottie Scheffler, and Will Zalatoris.

The following season, Xiong won six times individually en route to two of the three national player of the year honors, the 2018 Jack Nicklaus and Fred Haskins Awards.

After the 2018 NCAA Championships, Xiong, 19 at the time, turned professional and made five PGA TOUR starts via sponsor exemptions but missed the cut each time. It appeared as though the tough stretch was an aberration, as Xiong shared the 36-hole lead at the 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship and eventually finished T26. Roughly a month later, Xiong earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2019 season with a runner-up finish at Final Stage of its Qualifying Tournament.

Everything spiraled downward shortly thereafter.

As a rookie on the Korn Ferry Tour, Xiong racked up 15 missed cuts in 21 starts and fell back to the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. At Second Stage, Xiong finished T69 among the 72 players who finished all four rounds and no longer had membership. Sunday evening, Xiong referred to it as the low point of his last three years.

From the start of 2020 through last week, Xiong made seven PGA TOUR-sanctioned starts. Xiong Monday qualified into two PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour events, missing the cut in all four starts, and briefly held status on PGA TOUR Canada, where he recorded a top-10 in three starts last year.

[In an interview with Golf.com](#) last year, Xiong felt he could write a book about all that has changed since he turned professional as a college superstar.

“I guess this concludes Chapter 1,” Xiong said following his win Sunday. “I feel so much different than I did when I was out here last year, a few years ago.”

The next chapter for Xiong begins with the Live and Work in Maine Open. The win not only put Xiong at No. 34 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, it earned him fully exempt status for the remainder of the season. Shortly after the win, Xiong committed to next week’s field.

A PGA TOUR card went from practically out of sight to top of mind for 23-year-old Norman Xiong.

The 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season continues Thursday with the first round of the Live and Work in Maine Open at Falmouth Country Club.

#### **Final-Round Notes**

- **Trevor Werbylo** (T18 / -14) crossed the 875-point mark the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe threshold for players to finish inside The 25 and earn a PGA TOUR card at regular season’s end; he is the eight player who secured #TOURBound status this season
  - Werbylo became the first PGA TOUR University alum who secured a PGA TOUR card; he finished No. 9 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021, won the 2021 PGA TOUR Canada Order of Merit, and won the Lake Charles Championship earlier this season
- **Norman Xiong** (1st / -26) recorded the lowest 72-hole score relative to par in a Korn Ferry Tour event since Dylan Wu (2021 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper) and Taylor Moore (2021 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS) finished 27-under par in back-to-back events last season
- Prior to this week, Xiong’s last made cut on the Korn Ferry Tour was in June 2019 at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank
- At 23 years, 7 months, 10 days old, Xiong became the third-youngest winner on the Korn Ferry Tour this season, only behind Akshay Bhatia (19 years, 11 months, 19 days) and Davis Thompson (23 years, 0 months, 0 days)
- **Kevin Roy** (2nd / -21) recorded a career-high finish in his 68th Korn Ferry Tour start; he has three of the four highest finishes of his career this season (T4 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, solo-sixth at the AdventHealth Championship)

- In his 21st career Korn Ferry Tour start, **Kevin Yu** (3rd / -20) posted his second consecutive top-5 at the Wichita Open, and his third top-3 finish
  - T2 – 2021 The Ascendant presented by Blue
  - 2nd – 2022 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation
  - 3rd – 2022 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics
- **Pierceson Coody** (T4 / -19), who finished No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2022, recorded a top-5 in his second Korn Ferry Tour start; he is the grandson of 1971 Masters Tournament winner Charles Coody
- The Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics was the 17th 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, Norman Xiong; he also earned 500 Korn Ferry Tour points and fully exempt status for the remainder of 2022 and all of 2023 should he not earn PGA TOUR membership at season's end
  - 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 2022

#### **Final-Round Course Statistics**

- Scoring Average (Total - Par 70): 67.815 [-2.185]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine): 34.508 [-0.492]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine): 33.308 [-1.692]
- Toughest Hole: No. 6, Par 4, 470 yards – 4.292 [+0.292]
- Easiest Hole: No. 14, Par 5, 482 yards – 4.292 [-0.708]

#### **Cumulative Course Statistics**

- Scoring Average (Total - Par 70): 68.306 [-1.694]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine): 34.600 [-0.400]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine): 33.706 [-1.294]
- Toughest Hole: No. 6, Par 4, 495 yards – 4.284 [+0.284]
- Easiest Hole: No. 14, Par 5, 501 yards – 4.369 [-0.631]