

## Pre-Tournament Notes – AdventHealth Championship

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**Dates:** May 18-21, 2023

**Where:** Kansas City, Missouri

**Course:** Blue Hills Country Club (Par 72 / 7,383 yards)

**Course Designer:** Robert Dunning (1963)

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

**Field:** 156 players

**Purse:** \$1,000,000 (\$180,000/winner)

**Defending Champion:** Trevor Cone

### Quick Links

- [Tournament Media Site](#) (for tee times, transcripts, media hub access)
- [2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List](#) (Top 30 earn PGA TOUR cards at end of season)
- [Five Things to Know: 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Season](#)

### Things to Know

- The AdventHealth Championship marks the 10th tournament of the Korn Ferry Tour's 26-event schedule
- This will be the 13th playing of the AdventHealth Championship, with Blue Hills Country Club hosting for the fourth consecutive season
- Blue Hills Country Club is known for hosting Tom Watson's charity event for 25 years, with legends such as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Lee Trevino teeing it up throughout its history
- Last season on the Korn Ferry Tour, Blue Hills Country Club was the fourth-toughest course relative to par and one of four courses which had an over-par scoring average
  - Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Club (The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic) – 72.884 (+0.884)
  - Panama Golf Club (The Panama Championship) – 70.832 (+0.832)
  - The Ledges (HomeTown Lenders Championship) – 70.566 (+0.566)
  - **Blue Hills Country Club (AdventHealth Championship) – 72.165 (+0.165)**
- Two former champions of the AdventHealth Championship are returning to Kansas City this week: **Michael Gellerman** (2019) and **Jamie Lovemark** (2013)
  - Gellerman, who attended Sterling (Kansas) High School and plays out of Sterling, Kansas, won the first edition of this event hosted at Blue Hills Country Club in 2019
- Six of the top 10 finishers from last year's AdventHealth Championship earned a PGA TOUR card at season's end: Trevor Cone (Winner), Taylor Montgomery (2nd), MJ Daffue (3rd), Kevin Roy (6th), Sam Stevens (T7), Kyle Westmoreland (T7)
- A number of changes to the Korn Ferry Tour [announced this past June](#) will be implemented for the first time this season, with the most notable changes being:
  - **Increase from 25 to 30 PGA TOUR cards** annually awarded via the Korn Ferry Tour Points List
  - Reimagining of the Korn Ferry Tour Finals
    - *Previous Finals System:* Three-event competition for 25 PGA TOUR cards between the top 75 from the Korn Ferry Tour Points List and Nos. 126-200 on the FedExCup standings
    - **2023 and Beyond Finals System:** Final four events of the season where members will compete for increased purses and points (600 points for winning one of the four Finals events, compared to 500 for winning one of the 22 preceding events) to determine the season-long points race, in addition to a progressive reduction in field sizes
      - Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron (August 24-27) – 156 players
      - Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation (September 14-17) – 144 players
      - Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship (September 21-24) – 120 players

- Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (October 5-8) – 75 players [no cut]
- **One season-long Korn Ferry Tour Points List** as opposed to separate points lists for the regular season and Korn Ferry Tour Finals
- **Purses increasing** to \$1.5 million for the four Korn Ferry Tour Finals events and \$1 million for the 22 preceding events, with the \$28 million season purse representing the highest single-season total in Korn Ferry Tour history

### Field Notes (as of 5/16/2023)

- Field features 48 of the top 50 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List
- All eight champions from the first nine events of the 2023 season are in this week’s field:
  - **Ben Kohles** (two wins), **Pierceson Coody**, **Rhein Gibson**, **Scott Gutschewski**, **Spencer Levin**, **Chandler Phillips**, **Ben Silverman**, **David Skinns**
- Field includes 42 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 64 total victories, led by **Ben Kohles** with four
- Field Includes eight PGA TOUR winners with 17 total victories, led by **Chad Campbell** and **Camilo Villegas** with four apiece
  - Campbell was notably the runner-up at the 2003 PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club, the site of this week’s PGA Championship
- Two players in the field are currently inside the top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Pierceson Coody** (No. 149) and **Yuto Katsuragawa** (No. 168)
- **Wade Binfield** and sponsor exemptions **Davis Cooper** and **Joseph Winslow** are natives of nearby Overland Park, Kansas
  - Binfield is coming off a career-high T5 finish at last month’s HomeTown Lenders Championship
  - Cooper, a junior at the University of Kansas, attended Blue Valley High School which is the same high school as PGA TOUR member Harry Higgs
- Sponsor exemption **Charlie Hillier**, a PGA TOUR Latinoamérica member, is a resident of nearby Overland Park, Kansas and played collegiately at University of Kansas for four seasons (2015-19); he missed the cut at this event as a sponsor exemption last season
- Monday qualifier **Jeremy Gandon** played collegiately at Kansas State University

### 2022 AdventHealth Championship Recap (May 19-22, 2022)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Trevor Cone	65	67	70	70	272 (-16)
2	Taylor Montgomery	66	70	67	70	273 (-15)
3	MJ Daffue	65	71	66	72	274 (-14)
T4	Michael Feagles	65	69	69	72	275 (-13)
	Grayson Murray	70	67	70	68	275 (-13)

- Trevor Cone drained a 19-footer for birdie as outright leader Taylor Montgomery three-putted for bogey on the 72nd hole of the AdventHealth Championship, creating a two-shot swing for Cone to secure his second career Korn Ferry Tour victory (first since 2018)
- Cone led the field with 24 total birdies (23 birdies, one eagle)
- The runner-up finish for Montgomery marked the fourth of his Korn Ferry Tour career up to that point (55 starts); he earned a PGA TOUR card at season’s end and leads all rookies in the 2022-23 FedExCup Standings (No. 32 entering this week’s PGA Championship)
- **Michael Feagles** posted his first career top-10; his previous career-high finish was a T21 at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS in March 2022
- Sam Stevens and Kyle Westmoreland (T7/-10) both recorded the first top-10s of their careers; they both earned PGA TOUR cards at season’s end
- Austin Eckroat (T23/-5), a conditional member who was the 150th player into the 156-player field last year, began a run of four consecutive top-25s which vaulted him up the priority ranking and propelled him to a PGA TOUR card at season’s end; he finished T2 at last week’s AT&T Bryon Nelson

## Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Trevor Cone	65	67	70	70	272 (-16)	1
2021	Cameron Young	64	69	68	68	269 (-19)	2
2019	Michael Gellerman	71	67	70	69	277 (-11)	1
2018	Sepp Straka	64	65	64	69	262 (-22)	1
2017	Zecheng Dou	65	67	61	66	259 (-25)	3
2016	Wesley Bryan	65	67	65	67	264 (-20)	Playoff
2015	Martin Piller	65	62	66	65	258 (-26)	4
2014	Zack Sucher	66	63	64	72	265 (-19)	3
2013	Jamie Lovemark	67	68	65	66	266 (-18)	1
2012	Shawn Stefani	68	68	67	64	267 (-17)	2
2011	James Nitties	65	63	65	65	258 (-26)	5
2009	Michael Sim	65	67	65	67	264 (-20)	2

## Course Information – Blue Hills Country Club

- Years Hosted: 2019-Present
- Scoring Average (2022): 72.165 / +0.165
- Toughest Hole (2022): No. 4, Par 4, 446 yards – 4.219 / +0.219
- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 1, Par 5, 540 yards – 4.554 / -0.446
- Course Record: 64, Cameron Young (2021, Round 1), Will Cannon (2021, Round 4), Zach Wright (2021, Round 4)

## Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 60, Scott Dunlap (2011, Round 2), Tom Hoge (2014, Round 3)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 127, Martin Piller (2015), Shane Bertsch (2015)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 192, Kyle Jones (2018)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 258, James Nitties (2011), Martin Piller (2015)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 5, James Nitties (2011)
- Playoffs: 1 (2016, Wesley Bryan defeated Grayson Murray and J.T. Poston)

## Last Time on Tour – HomeTown Lenders Championship (April 27-30)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Ben Kohles	68	62	67	--	197 (-13)
2	Ben Silverman	66	64	67	--	197 (-13)
T3	David Skinns	69	64	65	--	198 (-12)
	Frankie Capan III	68	64	66	--	198 (-12)

- Per Korn Ferry Tour Rules and Regulations, the 2023 HomeTown Lenders Championship was reduced to 54 holes after the start of the first round was delayed 28 hours; the first round concluded at 11:09 a.m. local time Saturday, while the second round concluded at 9:40 a.m. Sunday
- It marked the first 54-hole event on the Korn Ferry Tour since the 2019 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX, as well as the 15th event reduced to 54 holes since the start of the 2000 Korn Ferry Tour season (including three events which were reduced to 36 holes)
- **Ben Kohles**, who tallied a field-low two bogeys in the tournament, defeated **Ben Silverman** on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff for his second Korn Ferry Tour win of the season and fourth of his career
- Silverman carried a two-stroke lead to the 72nd tee, but drove his ball into the penalty area, made double bogey and fell into a tie with Kohles
- Silverman, winner of the 2023 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, settled for his third top-three finish of the season (and second in a row – T3 previously at LECOM Suncoast Classic); his only previous season with multiple top-three finishes was 2017 (win and T2)

- **Frankie Capan III** recorded his first top-10 in his eighth career Korn Ferry Tour start; his previous career-high finish was T17 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club earlier this season
- **Blayne Barber** (T7/-9), a conditional member in the “Past Champion 5-10 Years” category who Monday qualified for his first start of the season, closed in 5-under 65 and earned a spot in this week’s field next event with a top-25 and his highest finish since a T7 at the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna
- **Trace Crowe** (T11/-8), the last man in the field who gained entry when Chris Baker withdrew prior to the first round, earned a spot in this week’s field with a career-high finish in his third start of the season; his only top-25 in 19 previous Korn Ferry Tour starts was a T18 at the 2022 NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank last May