



Pre-Tournament Notes – HomeTown Lenders Championship

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Dates: April 27-30, 2023

Where: Huntsville, Alabama

Course: The Ledges (Par 70 / 7,114 yards)

Course Designer: Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fray (2000)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 156 players

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

Defending Champion: Harrison Endycott

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 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season continues this week with the HomeTown Lenders Championship, the ninth tournament of the 26-event schedule
- This year marks the third playing of the event and the first under new title sponsor, HomeTown Lenders
- The Ledges, the host venue since the inaugural event in 2021, has an elevation of 1,582 feet, putting it at the highest point in Huntsville and offering views of the valley, downtown Huntsville, and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center
- Last season on the Korn Ferry Tour, The Ledges was the third-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)
- Designer Dr. Michael Hurdzan was *Golf Magazine's* 2003 Designer of the Year for his work at The Ledges
- Reigning champion Harrison Endycott, who won last year's event by five strokes, stands 110th on the 2022-23 FedExCup Standings amid his rookie season on the PGA TOUR
- **Paul Barjon**, winner of the inaugural HomeTown Lenders Championship, makes his return to Huntsville
- Six of the 12 players who finished T9 or higher at last year's HomeTown Lenders Championship earned PGA TOUR cards at season's end
 - Harrison Endycott (Winner), Ben Taylor (2nd), Erik Barnes (3rd), S.H. Kim (T6), Davis Thompson (T6), Paul Haley II (T9)
- Seven members in this week's field played collegiately in Alabama:
 - Auburn University (4) – **Blayne Barber** (open qualifier), **Michael Johnson**, **Andrew Kozan**, **Jacob Solomon**
 - University of Alabama (2) – **Wilson Furr**, **Frankie Capan III** (transferred to Florida Gulf Coast Univ.)
 - Central Alabama Community College (1) – **Chase Seiffert** (transferred to Florida State University)
- Players in the field with ties to the state of Alabama include Barber (Auburn resident), Furr (Birmingham resident), Johnson (Birmingham native and resident), Solomon (Auburn resident)
- First alternate (as of April 25) **Trace Crowe** played collegiately at Auburn University
- 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 4/25/23)

- Field includes 42 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 61 total wins, including all eight winners from the 2023 season (**Pierceson Coody, Rhein Gibson, Scott Gutschewski, Ben Kohles, Spencer Levin, Chandler Phillips, Ben Silverman, David Skinns**) and six winners from 2022 (Coody, **Brandon Harkins, David Kocher, Andrew Kozan, T.J. Vogel, Norman Xiong**)
- Gutschewski, Kohles, Skinns, and **Heath Slocum** have the most career Korn Ferry Tour wins (three apiece) among the 42 Korn Ferry Tour winners in the field
- Field features 34 of the top 35 players on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List
- Field includes three PGA TOUR winners with seven total wins, led by **Heath Slocum** with four
- Field includes two players currently inside top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Pierceson Coody** (No. 153) and **Kaito Onishi** (No. 200)

2022 HomeTown Lenders Championship Recap (April 28-May 1)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Harrison Endycott	63	67	64	70	264 (-16)
2	Ben Taylor	68	67	64	70	269 (-11)
3	Erik Barnes	64	65	72	69	270 (-10)
T4	Quade Cummins	68	64	68	71	271 (-9)
	Kris Ventura	68	66	71	66	271 (-9)

- Harrison Endycott opened the week with a 7-under 63, tying the 18-hole tournament scoring record and built a 5-stroke 54-hole lead with a 6-under 64 in the third round
- Endycott made five bogeys for the tournament, two fewer over-par holes than any other player, and his 20 total birdies (19 birdies, one eagle) were tied for the fourth most in the field
- Ben Taylor recorded the first of his two runner-up finishes from the 2022 season; his only previous runner-up finish came in 2019
- Erik Barnes held the outright 36-hole lead and recorded the fifth of his seven top-10s from the 2022 season, which ended with him securing his first PGA TOUR card
- **Kris Ventura** led the field with 22 birdies and recorded his highest finish in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play since a T4 at the 2020 Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass
- In his sixth start of the season and eighth career Korn Ferry Tour start, **Quade Cummins** recorded the highest finish of his rookie campaign; he finished No. 70 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List for fully exempt status this season
- **Wilson Furr**, a PGA TOUR Canada member at the time, made his Korn Ferry Tour debut as a sponsor exemption and finished T31; he bogeyed four of the final six holes and finished two strokes out of a top-25

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Harrison Endycott	63	67	64	70	264 (-16)	5
2021	Paul Barjon	65	67	64	69	265 (-15)	Playoff

Course Information – The Ledges

- Years Hosted: 2021-Present
- Scoring Average (2022): 70.566 (+0.566)
- Toughest Hole (2022): No. 15, Par 4, 505 yards – 4.449 (+0.449)
- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 10, Par 5, 548 yards – 4.593 (-0.407)

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 63, Adam Svensson (2021, Round 2), Cameron Young (2021, Round 3), Billy Kennerly (2021, Round 4), Harrison Endycott (2022, Round 1), **Zack Fischer** (2022, Round 1), Marcelo Rozo (2022, Round 4)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 129, Joey Garber (2021) and Erik Barnes (2022)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 194, Harrison Endycott (2022)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 264, Harrison Endycott (2022)

Last Week on Tour – LECOM Suncoast Classic (April 20-23)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Scott Gutschewski	67	66	62	68	263 (-21)
2	Logan McAllister	63	65	69	66	263 (-21)
T3	Chase Seiffert	65	65	65	69	264 (-20)
	Ben Silverman	64	66	66	68	264 (-20)
T5	Three Players Tied					265 (-19)

- **Scott Gutschewski** earned his third career Korn Ferry Tour win as he drained a 47-foot birdie putt from the fringe, defeating **Logan McAllister** on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff
- At 46 years, 6 months, and 22 days of age, Gutschewski became the 10th-oldest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history (established 1990) and earned the 11th win by a player of 46-plus years of age in Tour history (first since Tag Ridings at 2021 The Ascendant presented by Blue at 46 years, 10 months, 4 days of age)
- Gutschewski joined **David Skinns** as the second winner in his 40s this season; the last calendar year featuring multiple winners in their 40s on the Korn Ferry Tour was 2015 (four winners in their 40s)
- Gutschewski, who last won on June 8, 2008 at the UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH, ended the second-longest winless drought between two victories in Korn Ferry Tour history at 14 years, 10 months, and 15 days
- With the \$180,000 winner's check, Gutschewski rose to fourth on the Korn Ferry Tour Career Money List at \$1,761,873 in official earnings; he trails Paul Claxton (\$1,802,290), Kyle Thompson (\$1,890,864), and Darron Stiles (\$2,121,641)
- Second-year member **Logan McAllister** recorded his second top-10 of the season and a career-high finish in his 15th career start on the Korn Ferry Tour
- Two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Ben Silverman** made one of six birdies at the par-4 18 Sunday and posted his second top-three finish in five starts this season (won The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club); he has multiple top-three finishes in the same Korn Ferry Tour season for the second time in his career (previous: 2017 – won Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper; T2 at WinCo Foods Portland Open)
- **Chase Seiffert** matched his second-highest finish in his 46 career start on the Korn Ferry Tour; he previously finished T2 at the 2019 Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch, and T3 at the 2019 LECOM Health Challenge
- **Kevin Dougherty** (T5/-19), the outright 54-hole leader who broke the 54-hole tournament scoring record, closed in even-par 71, including four birdies, two bogeys, and a double bogey at the par-5 ninth; he

settled for his third top-10 in seven starts this season (T8/The Panama Championship; 2nd/Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard)

- Rookie **Chris Gotterup** (T5/-19), winner of the 2021-22 Fred Haskins and Jack Nicklaus Awards (two of the three collegiate national player of the year awards), recorded his first top-10 of the season in his seventh start on the Korn Ferry Tour
- **Jake Knapp** (T5/-19), now in his second season as a member, had one top-10 in 36 starts as a rookie for the 2020-21 season; his career-high T5 finish last week marked his third top-10 of the 2023 season (previous career-high finish: T7/2023 Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard, 2023 Veritex Bank Championship)