



2023 Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance
(26th of 26 events on 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Schedule)

[Tournament Media Site](#) | [Interview Transcripts](#)

Newburgh, Indiana
Victoria National Golf Club

October 5-8, 2023
Par / Yards: 72 / 7,265

Points: 600 (winner)
Purse: \$1,500,000 / \$270,000 (winner)

Second-Round Notes – Friday, October 6, 2023

[Second-Round Leaderboard](#)

Ben Kohles	68-67—135 (-9)
Mason Andersen	64-71—135 (-9)
Alejandro Tosti	69-68—137 (-7)
Matt McCarty	69-68—137 (-7)
Steven Fisk	71-66—137 (-7)
David Kocher	67-71—138 (-6)
Jake Knapp	69-69—138 (-6)

Things to Know

- Four-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Ben Kohles** follows bogey-free 4-under 68 with bogey-free 5-under 67 and remains the only player in the field without a bogey, shares 36-hole lead with rookie **Mason Andersen**
- Kohles records the only bogey-free round of Friday's second round, and no player in the field has fewer than three bogeys through 36 holes
- Currently No. 1 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List, Kohles, who won earlier this season at the Astara Chile Classic and HomeTown Lenders Championship, is bidding to become the 13th player in Korn Ferry Tour history to earn the Three-Victory Promotion, which would enable him to immediately accept PGA TOUR membership and become eligible for the FedExCup Fall
- Kohles is also bidding to finish No. 1 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List, which grants exemptions to the 2024 PLAYERS Championship and 2024 U.S. Open
- Andersen drains 40-footer for birdie on No. 18 to cap 1-under 71, earn share of the lead; he entered the week at No. 42 on Korn Ferry Tour Points List, currently projects to rise to No. 8 with a win
- Andersen, **Matt McCarty** (T3/-7), **Wilson Furr** (T8/-5), and **Trace Crowe** (T8/-5) are the only players currently projected to move into the top 30 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List; the four players currently projected to fall out of the top 30 are No. 26 **Carter Jenkins** (T68/+10), No. 27 **Joe Highsmith** (T27/-1), No. 29 **Shad Tuten** (T17/-2), and No. 30 **Jackson Suber** (T60/+6)
- Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance is the 26th and final event of the 2023 season, and the top 30 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List upon conclusion of the final round will earn PGA TOUR membership for the 2024 season
- Upon conclusion of the final round, players ranked Nos. 31-60 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List will earn an exemption to Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry, where 2024 PGA TOUR membership will be awarded to the top five finishers and ties
- Third-round tee times will run from 7:25 a.m. through 9:35 a.m. local time off the first and 10th tees

Second-Round Lead Notes

- 12 Second-round leaders/co-leaders to win Korn Ferry Tour Championship (Last: 2015/Emiliano Grillo)
- 4 Second-round leaders/co-leaders to win on Tour in 2023 (last: Chan Kim/Albertsons Boise Open)

Charting the Leader (stats entering the week)

Category	Ben Kohles	Mason Andersen
Age	33 (February 24, 1990)	24 (November 23, 1998)
2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 1	No. 42

Korn Ferry Tour Starts – Wins – Top-10s (2023)	22-2-7	25-0-3
Korn Ferry Tour Starts – Wins – Top-10s (Career)	203-4-26	25-0-3
Starts – Wins – Top-10s at Korn Ferry Tour Champ.	8-0-0	0-0-0

Ben Kohles (T1/-9)

- Cards bogey-free 5-under 67 with three birdies (Nos. 10, 13, 16) and eagle at the par-5 15th on his first nine holes, closes round with 11 consecutive pars
- Holds fourth career 36-hole lead/co-lead in 204th career start on Tour (T1/2020 Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass/finished T14; T1/2021 Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron/finished T54; T1/2023 Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron/finished T4)
- Stands No. 1 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List with two wins and five additional top-10s; the No. 1 player on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List upon conclusion of the final round will earn exemptions for the 2024 PLAYERS Championship and 2024 U.S. Open
- One of four multi-time winners on the Korn Ferry Tour this season (Pierceson Coody, Chan Kim, Grayson Murray)
- Ended the eighth-longest gap between wins in Korn Ferry Tour history (10 years, 7 months, 28 days) with his first win of the season at the 2023 Astara Chile Classic
- Won his second start of the season 28 days later at the 2023 HomeTown Lenders Championship
- Previously graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following the 2012 and 2020-21 seasons
- Turned professional in 2012 out of University of Virginia and won his Korn Ferry Tour debut as a sponsor exemption at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship, followed by a win at the Cox Classic a week later and became the first (and still the only) player in Korn Ferry Tour history to win his first two starts on Tour
- Played four seasons at Virginia (2008-12), amassing a school-record seven wins and earning All-America Second Team recognition as a senior in 2012, as well as an All-America Third Team selection in 2011
- Two-time Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year (2010 and 2011), sharing the 2010 honor with Florida State University’s Brooks Koepka

Mason Andersen (T1/-9)

- Follows bogey-free 8-under 64 with 1-under 71 featuring a double bogey at par-4 second, two bogeys (par-4 eighth and 14th), and five birdies (Nos. 9, 10, 13, 16, 18)
- Holds second 36-hole lead/co-lead in 26th career start on Tour (1st/Astara Chile Classic/finished T7)
- Rookie who entered the week at No. 42 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List; he projects to rise to No. 8 with a win
- Played every event this season, posting career- and season-high finish of T2 at the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation, the second of four Korn Ferry Tour Finals events
- Recorded one of his three top-10s this season at the Astara Chile Classic, where he held the 36-hole lead and 54-hole co-lead prior to a T7 finish
- Entered the week with consecutive top-25s (T2/Simmons Bank Open; T18/Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship), which took him from No. 57 to No. 42 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List
- Turned professional in summer 2022 following five seasons at Arizona State University, where he twice earned medalist honors, garnered 2022 All-America Third Team recognition, earned a 2019 All-Pac-12 Conference First Team selection, and went 3-0 in match play as Arizona State finished runner-up at the 2022 NCAA Championships
- Finished T12 at Final Stage of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament for guaranteed starts in the first eight events of the 2023 season; he was one of eight players who advanced through each stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, beginning with pre-qualifying
- Qualified for and played the 2017 U.S. Open as an amateur

Quotables

Ben Kohles on whether he is aware of his scenarios to finish No. 1 on the Points List... “I know what comes with No. 1, yeah. Yeah, I know what’s obviously going on. I try not to really know, but yeah, I know if I play well, then it takes care of itself. That was my goal kind of coming in, and I’ve done a pretty good job so far. We’re halfway done, so there’s still a lot of golf to play. Obviously all these guys in this field are here for a reason and, yeah, anything can happen this weekend. I’m not going to let anything get to my head. Still got to grind for the next 36 holes.”

Mason Andersen on his birdie at No. 18... “I was trying to just hit it like within a 3-foot circle, and I smoked it. I was like, ‘Please hit the pin,’ and it hit the pin and went in, so it was pretty cool. Probably just north of 40 feet. Wasn’t what I was trying to do. I was trying to cozy it up there and then just smoked it right off the face.”

Andersen on today's rollercoaster round compared to Thursday's bogey-free 64... "Very different. Yesterday... I was firing on all cylinders. Today, I struggled early and was kind of struggling the whole day. Just was able to pull something together. I think I lost my concentration, my focus a little bit early in the round... you've got to be focused and concentrating for 18 holes.

Notes

- Second-year member **Matt McCarty** (T3/-7) birdies two of final three holes (par-3 seventh, par-5 ninth) en route to 4-under 68; he entered the week at No. 37 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List, currently projects to move to No. 20
- Rookie **Alejandro Tosti** (T3/-7) cards 4-under 68 with an eagle at the par-5 third, seven birdies (in order: Nos. 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 4, 8), three bogeys (Nos. 1, 2, 5), and a double bogey at the par-4 14th
- Tosti, one of 16 players already declared #TOURBound and assured of PGA TOUR membership for 2024, can finish No. 1 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List (and earn exemptions for the 2024 PLAYERS Championship and 2024 U.S. Open) with a win and if **Ben Kohles** (T1/-9) finishes worse than a 2-way T2
- **Steven Fisk** (T3/-7) and **Trace Crowe** (T8/-5) share the low round of day with matching 6-under 66s
- Based on current projections, these are the last five players in the top 30:
 - No. 26 **Scott Gutschewski** (T44/+3) – began week No. 21
 - No. 27 **Wilson Furr** (T8/-5) – began week No. 32
 - No. 28 **Trace Crowe** (T8/-5) – began week No. 33
 - No. 29 **Jorge Fernández-Valdés** (T44/+3) – began week No. 24
 - No. 30 **Chase Seiffert** (T17/-2) – began week No. 28
- Based on current projections, these are the first five players out of the top 30:
 - No. 31 **Shad Tuten** (T17/-2) – began week No. 29
 - No. 32 **Joe Highsmith** (T27/-1) – began week No. 27
 - No. 33 **Carter Jenkins** (T68/+10) – began week No. 26
 - No. 34 **Roger Sloan** (T33/+1) – began week No. 31
 - No. 35 **Jackson Suber** (T60/+6) – began week No. 30