



Pre-Tournament Notes – LECOM Suncoast Classic

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Dates: April 20-23, 2023

Where: Lakewood Ranch, Florida

Course: Lakewood National Golf Club – Commander (Par 71 / 7,113 yards)

Course Designer: Arnold Palmer (2017)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 156 players

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

Defending Champion: Byeong Hun An

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 with the fifth playing of the LECOM Suncoast Classic, hosted by Lakewood National Golf Club's Commander course since its inaugural playing in 2019, is the eighth tournament of the 26-event schedule
- The LECOM Suncoast Classic is one of five events being contested in a different month as part of the revamped Korn Ferry Tour schedule (more details outlined below)
 - LECOM Suncoast Classic – moved from mid-February to mid-April
 - NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank – moved from late May to late July
 - Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation – moved from early May to mid-September
 - Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship -- moved from late August to late September
 - Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance – moved from early September to early October
- All four past champions of the LECOM Suncoast Classic – Byeong Hun An (2022), Hayden Buckley (2021), Andrew Novak (2020), Mark Hubbard (2019) – are PGA TOUR members this season
 - Buckley enters the week at No. 33 in the 2022-23 FedExCup Standings, while An checks in at No. 61, followed by Hubbard at No. 83 and Novak at No. 93
- All five players who finished T2 or higher, and another four players who finished T14 or higher at last year's LECOM Suncoast Classic earned PGA TOUR cards at season's end
 - Byeong Hun An (Winner), MJ Daffue (T2), Ben Griffin (T2), Scott Harrington (T2), S.H. Kim (T2), Will Gordon (T6), **Nicholas Lindheim** (T6), Eric Cole (T14), Paul Haley II (T14)
- Nine members in this week's field played collegiately in Florida:
 - University of Florida (4) – **A.J. Crouch, Alejandro Tosti, Camilo Villegas, T.J. Vogel**
 - Florida State University (2) – **Cristobal Del Solar, Chase Seiffert**
 - Florida Atlantic University (1) – **Ben Silverman**
 - Florida Gulf Coast University (1) – **Frankie Capan III**
 - Florida Southern College (1) – **John VanDerLaan**
- Players in the field with ties to the greater Tampa, Florida area are **Jimmy Stanger** and **Jackson Suber** (both Tampa natives and residents)
- 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

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Byeong Hun An	65	66	67	69	267 (-17)	1
2021	Hayden Buckley	68	65	68	70	271 (-13)	Playoff
2020	Andrew Novak	69	64	66	66	265 (-23)	1
2019	Mark Hubbard	65	66	64	67	262 (-26)	2

Course Information – Lakewood National Golf Club (Commander)

- Years Hosted: 2019-Present
- Scoring Average (2022): 69.215 / -1.785
- Toughest Hole (2022): No. 2, Par 4, 491 yards – 4.347 / +0.347
- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 4, Par 4, 298 yards – 3.401 / -0.599

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 61, Callum Tarren (2022, Round 2)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 128, J.T. Griffin and Maverick McNealy (2019), Zecheng Dou (2022)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 195, Mark Hubbard (2019)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 262, Mark Hubbard (2019)

Last Week on Tour – Veritex Bank Championship (April 13-16)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Spencer Levin	66	68	67	63	264 (-20)
2	Brett Drewitt	64	66	65	70	265 (-19)
T3	Patrick Fishburn	65	70	65	66	266 (-18)
	Rico Hoey	67	68	68	63	266 (-18)

- **Spencer Levin** capped a bogey-free 8-under 63 in the final round with a birdie on the 72 hole, the par-5 18th, earning his first PGA TOUR-sanctioned win in his 343rd TOUR-sanctioned start
- Levin, a conditional member who successfully open qualified into the field last Monday, became the 26 open qualifier in Korn Ferry Tour history who went on to win the tournament; the most recent was Norman Xiong at the 2022 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics
- Levin joined Chandler Phillips (The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay) as the second first-time winner this season
- **Brett Drewitt** became the fourth player in Korn Ferry Tour history to record five top-10s in the first seven events of the season, joining Deane Pappas (1998), Stewart Cink (1996), and Sean Pacetti (1990)
- Drewitt carried a five-stroke lead into the final round and became the first player who failed to convert a 54-hole lead of five-plus strokes into a win since Kevin Chappell at the 2010 Ford Wayne Gretzky Classic presented by Samsung
- Prior to this past Sunday, the last 15 leads of five-plus strokes through 54 holes of a Korn Ferry Tour event were converted into wins
- Drewitt had three bogeys in 72 holes last week – all of them came in the final round (Nos. 3, 10, 17); he made two fewer bogeys than any player in the field
- **Rico Hoey** tied his career-high finish (T3/2023 Astara Chile Classic) in his 79th career Korn Ferry Tour start and logged his fourth top-10 of the season; he entered 2023 with four top-10s in 72 career starts
- **Patrick Fishburn**, who finished No. 49 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, snapped a streak of five consecutive missed cuts with his first top-10 since a career-high finish (T2) at the 2022 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank; the T3 marked the second-highest finish of his career
- Conditional member **Cole Hammer** (T21/-11), who played last week via a sponsor exemption, followed bogeys on Nos. 15 and 16 with back-to-back birdies on Nos. 17 and 18 converted his first made cut in his second start of the season into a top-25, earning him a spot in this week's LECOM Suncoast Classic; he was the 12th alternate for the LECOM Suncoast Classic prior to his top-25