

Pre-Tournament Notes – Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS

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Dates: June 29-July 2, 2023

Where: Springfield, Illinois

Course: Panther Creek Country Club (Par 71 / 7,228 yards)

Course Designer: Hale Irwin (1992)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 156 players

Purse / Winner's Share: \$1,000,000 / \$180,000 winner

Defending Champion: Paul Haley II

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)
- [PGA TOUR University Class of 2023](#)
- [Five Things to Know: 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Season](#)

Things to Know

- The Korn Ferry Tour returns to in Springfield, Illinois for the eighth playing of the Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS, the 16th tournament of the Korn Ferry Tour's 26-event season
- Panther Creek Country Club has hosted every iteration of the Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS, which played its inaugural event in 2016
- Reigning champion Paul Haley II tied the 72-hole tournament scoring record of 27-under 257 to win last year's event by three strokes; he went on to finish No. 3 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List to secure a return to the PGA TOUR for the first time since 2012
- Taylor Moore, who won the 2021 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS, held off fellow past champion Adam Schenk (2017) to earn his first PGA TOUR win at the 2023 Valspar Championship
- Three former champions are in the field this week: **Martin Flores** (2016), **Xinjun Zhang** (2019), and **Brett Drewitt** (2020)
- Six players who finished T9 or better in last year's event earned a PGA TOUR card at season's end: Paul Haley II (1st), Austin Eckroat (2nd), Michael Kim (3rd), Augusto Núñez (T5) and Nico Echavarria (T7), and Sam Stevens (T9)
- Korn Ferry Tour members in the field with ties to the state of Illinois include **Patrick Flavin** (Chicago native, Highwood resident) and **Vince India** (Deerfield native, Chicago resident)
- Three players in the field played collegiately at the University of Illinois: **Brian Campbell**, **Adrien Dumont de Chassart**, and **Michael Feagles**
- Dumont de Chassart and **Ricky Castillo**, who finished No. 3 and No. 9 in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2023, respectively, both won their professional and Korn Ferry Tour debuts in back-to-back events to earn fully exempt status for the remainder of the 2023 season
 - Dumont de Chassart won three weeks ago at BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX
 - Castillo won two weeks ago at the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics, defeating Dumont de Chassart and Kyle Jones in a playoff; Castillo's win upended Dumont de Chassart's bid to become the second player in Korn Ferry Tour history to win their first two starts on Tour

Field Notes (as of 6/27/2023)

- 24 of the top 30 players on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List headline this week's field
- 12 champions from the first 15 events of the 2023 season are in this week's field:

- **Ben Kohles** (two wins), **Ricky Castillo**, **Pierceson Coody**, **Rhein Gibson**, **Scott Gutschewski**, **Rico Hoey**, **Spencer Levin**, **Grayson Murray**, **Chandler Phillips**, **Ben Silverman**, **David Skinns**, **Jimmy Stanger**
- Field includes 44 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 61 total victories, led by current Korn Ferry Tour Points List leader **Ben Kohles** with four
- Field includes eight PGA TOUR winners with 16 total victories, led by **Camilo Villegas** with four
- Field includes four players currently inside top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Rico Hoey** (No. 144), **Pierceson Coody** (No. 152), **Ben Kohles** (No. 184), **Yuto Katsuragawa** (No. 185)

PGA TOUR University Class of 2023

- Seven of the top 10 finishers from the 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking are in the field this week:
 - No. 2 **Fred Biondi** (Florida) – won individual and team national titles at 2023 NCAA Championship
 - No. 3 **Adrien Dumont de Chassart** (Illinois) – *won professional and Korn Ferry Tour debut three weeks ago*
 - No. 6 **William Mouw** (Pepperdine) – *recorded back-to-back top-25s*
 - No. 7 **Ryan Burnett** (North Carolina)
 - No. 8 **Patrick Welch** (Oklahoma)
 - No. 9 **Ricky Castillo** (Florida) – *won professional and Korn Ferry Tour debut two weeks ago*
 - No. 10 **Yuxin Lin** (Florida) – *recorded top-25 in professional and Korn Ferry Tour debut last week*
- The top five finishers from the 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking earned fully exempt status on the Korn Ferry Tour through the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Finals (which grants entry to its field based off the Korn Ferry Tour Points List), as well as an exemption to Final Stage of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry – where the top five finishers and ties earn PGA TOUR cards – and the ability to accept unlimited PGA TOUR sponsor exemptions for the remainder of 2023 and 2024
- Finishers Nos. 6-10 from the 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking earned conditional status for the remainder of the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season, as well as fully exempt status for the 2023 PGA TOUR Canada season, an exemption to Second Stage of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry, and exempt status through the Latin America Swing of the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas season
- For all events prior to the Korn Ferry Tour Finals, the PGA TOUR University category on the Korn Ferry Tour Priority Ranking will be filled by five players to a floor of the No. 10 finisher from the 2023 PGA TOUR University Priority Ranking
 - *Example:* No. 3 Adrien Dumont de Chassart and No. 9 Ricky Castillo now play out of the Tournament Winners category, meaning their places in the PGA TOUR University category will be filled by No. 6 William Mouw and No. 7 Ryan Burnett, respectively
 - *Additional Example:* If No. 2 Fred Biondi records a top-25, he plays the next tournament out of the “Top-25 Previous Event” category, meaning his place in the PGA TOUR University category would be filled by No. 8 Patrick Welch (since Nos. 6 and 7 will already be in field via previous example)

2023 Korn Ferry Tour Season

- 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

2022 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS Recap (July 14-17, 2022)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Paul Haley II	65	67	61	64	257 (-27)
2	Austin Eckroat	65	63	64	68	260 (-24)
3	Michael Kim	61	69	64	67	261 (-23)
4	Patrick Newcomb	65	64	64	69	262 (-22)

- Paul Haley II earned his second career Korn Ferry Tour win, ending a winless drought of 10-plus years, as he previously won as a rookie in 2012; the win propelled him to a PGA TOUR card at season’s end
- Haley II tied the 72-hole tournament scoring record of 27-under 257 previously established by Taylor Moore, who won the event in 2021 en route to earning a PGA TOUR card
- Austin Eckroat (2nd / -24), who finished No. 3 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021, finished solo-second for the best finish of his Korn Ferry Tour career; he went on to finish solo-second in the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance to earn his first PGA TOUR card
- Michael Kim (3rd / -23) placed solo-third, his best finish in a Korn Ferry Tour event since a T3 at the 2015 AdventHealth Championship; he closed the season with 11 top-25s in his final 14 starts of the season en route to securing a return to the PGA TOUR

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Paul Haley II	65	67	61	64	257 (-27)	3
2021	Taylor Moore	66	66	60	65	257 (-27)	3
2020	Brett Drewitt	67	62	68	68	265 (-19)	1
2019	Xinjun Zhang	68	72	63	66	269 (-15)	Playoff
2018	Anders Albertson	66	66	64	63	259 (-25)	2
2017	Adam Schenk	67	66	65	72	270 (-14)	Playoff
2016	Martin Flores	66	64	65	67	262 (-22)	2

Course Information – Panther Creek Country Club

- Years Hosted: 2016-Present
- Scoring Average (2022): 68.33 / -2.67
- Toughest Hole (2022): No. 1, Par 4, 510 yards – 4.179 / +0.179
- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 16, Par 5, 529 yards – 4.189 / -0.811

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 60, Taylor Moore (2021, Round 3), Rob Oppenheim (2022, Round 3)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 127, Charlie Saxon (2020), Erik Barnes (2021)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 192, Erik Barnes (2021) and Taylor Moore (2021), Austin Eckroat (2022) and Rob Oppenheim (2022)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 257, Taylor Moore (2021), Paul Haley II (2022)

Last Week on Tour – Compliance Solutions Championship Recap (June 22-25)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Jimmy Stanger	67	66	67	66	266 (-22)
2	Rafael Campos	64	72	65	66	267 (-21)
3	Nicholas Lindheim	70	69	65	64	268 (-20)
T4	Noah Goodwin	68	69	65	67	269 (-19)
	Patrick Newcomb	67	68	68	66	269 (-19)
	Alan Wagner	64	68	67	70	269 (-19)
	Tim Widing	67	65	66	71	269 (-19)

- **Jimmy Stanger** became the third winner this season to birdie the 72nd hole and win by one stroke (Spencer Levin/Veritex Bank Championship; Rico Hoey/Visit Knoxville Open)
- Stanger and **Noah Goodwin** both finished with 102 total putts this week, the fewest in the field
- Korn Ferry Tour winner **Rafael Campos** recorded his second runner-up finish in his 124th career start on Tour, in addition to posting his highest finish in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play since a T2 at the PGA TOUR's 2021 Corales Puntacana Championship
- Making his 62nd career start on the Korn Ferry Tour, **Patrick Newcomb** recorded his third top-10 and ties his career-high finish on Tour (4th/2022 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS)
- Rookie **Noah Goodwin** recorded his first top-25 in his 14th start this season; he entered the week with a streak of seven consecutive missed cuts
- **Alan Wagner** recorded his first top-10 in his 20th career start on the Korn Ferry Tour; his only top-25 in 19 previous career starts was a T17 at the 2023 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
- Rookie **Tim Widing** logged his third top-10 and first since recording back-to-back top-10s earlier this season (T8/Club Car Championship at The Landings Golf & Athletic Club; T3/Astara Chile Classic)
- **Rico Hoey** (T11/-16) posted his seventh finish of T11 or higher this season and moved within 21 points of Korn Ferry Tour Points List leader **Ben Kohles** (T35/-11), the only multi-time winner this season