

Pre-Tournament Notes – Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna

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Dates: August 10-13, 2023

Where: Omaha, Nebraska

Course: The Club at Indian Creek (Par 71 / 7,721 yards)

Course Designer: Frank Hummel, Mark Rathert (1991 and 1997), Todd Quitno (renovation, 2009-11)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 156 players

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

Defending Champion: Robby Shelton

Quick Links

- [#TOURBound: Pierceson Coody relishes heritage while forging own path](#)
- [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 Omaha, Nebraska for the seventh playing of the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna, the 21st tournament of the Korn Ferry Tour's 26-event 2023 season
- The Club at Indian Creek has hosted every iteration of the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna, which played its inaugural event in 2017
- Three former champions are in the field this week including two-time winner **David Skinnis** (2018 and 2021), as well as **Seth Reeves** (2020) and **Kris Ventura** (2019)
- Three-time winner **Pierceson Coody**, who earned his second victory of the 2023 season three weeks ago at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper, is bidding to become the 13th player in history to earn the Three-Victory Promotion, which grants an immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR
- With a top-10 at last week's Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, Coody became the fourth player declared #TOURBound, meaning he is assured of finishing in the top 30 and earning PGA TOUR membership for the 2024 season; he joined Korn Ferry Tour Points List leader **Ben Kohles**, No. 2 **Rico Hoey**, No. 3 **Ben Silverman**
- **Adrien Dumont de Chassart** has top-10s in each of his six starts since turning professional and joining the Korn Ferry Tour; his six consecutive top-10s tied the Korn Ferry Tour record for consecutive top-10s previously established by Doug Martin (1993), Tom Gillis (2009), and John Mallinger (2011)

Field Notes (as of 8/8/2023)

- 29 of the top 30 players on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List headline this week's field
- 17 of the 18 players to win an event this season are in this week's field:
 - **Pierceson Coody** (two wins), **Ben Kohles** (two wins), **Paul Barjon**, **Trace Crowe**, **Adrien Dumont de Chassart**, **Jorge Fernández Valdés**, **Rhein Gibson**, **Scott Gutschewski**, **Rico Hoey**, **Spencer Levin**, **Nicholas Lindheim**, **Grayson Murray**, **Chandler Phillips**, **Ben Silverman**, **David Skinnis**, **Roger Sloan**, **Jimmy Stanger**
- Field includes a season-high 50 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 76 total victories, led by current Korn Ferry Tour Points List leader **Ben Kohles** with four wins
- Field includes nine PGA TOUR winners with 19 total victories, led by **Chad Campbell**, **Sean O'Hair**, and **Camilo Villegas** with four apiece
- Field includes eight players currently inside top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Pierceson Coody** (No. 106), **Rico Hoey** (No. 133), **Ben Silverman** (No. 151), **Alejandro Tosti** (No. 156), **Grayson Murray** (No. 160), **Ben Kohles** (No. 185), **Nicholas Lindheim** (No. 186), **Jimmy Stanger** (No. 200)

Local Ties

- Korn Ferry Tour members in the field with ties to the state of Nebraska include **Scott Gutschewski** (Omaha native, Nebraska alum) and **Brandon Crick** (McCook native, Nebraska alum)
 - Gutschewski currently ranks No. 12 on the Points List off the strength of his win at the LECOM Suncoast Classic in April
- All four sponsor exemptions are natives of Nebraska:
 - **Noah Hofman**, a native of McCook, is a conditional member making his first career Korn Ferry Tour start this week; Hofman played two seasons (2016-18) collegiately at Southeast Community College in Beatrice
 - **Carson Schaake**, who resides in and plays from Omaha, is making his second career start after making his Korn Ferry Tour debut in this event in 2020 (missed cut); he is a conditional member this season
 - Luke Kluver, a native of Norfolk, is currently on the men's golf team at the University of Oklahoma; he won the Indian Creek Invitational to earn his exemption into this week's event; Kluver was named the Nebraska Junior Golfer of the year in 2017 and 2018
 - Nate Vontz, a Creighton alum and native of Lincoln, won the Pinnacle Bank Championship qualifier at Firethorn Golf Club to get in the field
- Parker Klitzke is a resident of Lincoln and recorded a 9-under 63 in the open qualifier, highlighted by an albatross on the par-5 17th hole, to enter a three-man playoff for two spots in the field; Klitzke recorded an eagle on the fifth playoff hole to secure his first PGA TOUR-sanctioned start; Klitzke played collegiately at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota from 2014-18

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 in June, has top-10s in each of first six Korn Ferry Tour starts*
 - No. 4 **Ross Steelman** (Georgia Tech) – *recorded first top-25 last week*
 - No. 6 **William Mouw** (Pepperdine) – *four top-25s in first seven starts on Tour, also finished T13 at John Deere Classic*
 - No. 7 **Ryan Burnett** (North Carolina) – *recorded first top-10 three weeks ago*
 - No. 8 **Patrick Welch** (Oklahoma) – *recorded second top-25 last week*
 - No. 10 **Yuxin Lin** (Florida) – *recorded first top-25 in June*
- 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)
- **Adrien 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 the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX (Sunday, June 11), followed by Castillo's win a week later at the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics (Sunday, June 18), as Castillo defeated 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 (Ben Kohles/2012)

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 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (August 11-14, 2022)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Robby Shelton	66	70	66	65	267 (-17)
2	Ben Taylor	67	71	62	68	268 (-16)
T3	Kevin Dougherty	70	66	67	66	269 (-15)
	Taylor Montgomery	66	68	66	69	269 (-15)

- Robby Shelton carded a 6-under 65 and held off Ben Taylor, one of three 54-hole co-leaders, to win the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna for his second victory of 2022 and fourth of his career
- While Shelton finished the week with only 42 greens in regulation, nearly the worst in the field among the 65 players who made the cut, the University of Alabama alum only hit 99 putts, with just 22 of them coming in the final round
 - Shelton joined Norman Xiong as the only players during the 2022 season to record fewer than 100 putts across 72 holes (Xiong set a Korn Ferry Tour record with 94 putts at the 2022 Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics)
- Ben Taylor entered the final round in a three-way tie for the lead, but fell one stroke behind Shelton, notching his second runner-up finish of the season and secured a return to the PGA TOUR
- Needing a win to secure his first PGA TOUR card, Kevin Dougherty made a late charge in the final round with three consecutive birdies on Nos. 13-15, but a bogey at the 16th closed the door on a victory
- Taylor Montgomery recorded his second consecutive top-three finish to end the regular season and secured his first PGA TOUR card

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Robby Shelton	66	70	66	65	267 (-17)	1
2021	David Skinns	67	67	69	67	270 (-14)	1
2020	Seth Reeves	74	67	68	64	273 (-11)	1
2019	Kris Ventura	67	64	67	70	268 (-16)	2
2018	David Skinns	68	66	69	65	268 (-16)	2
2017	Sam Ryder	67	67	62	67	263 (-21)	8

Course Information – The Club at Indian Creek

- Years Hosted: 2017-present
- Scoring Average (2022): 70.599 / -0.401
- Toughest Hole (2022): No. 18, Par 4, 463 yards – 4.155 / +0.155
- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 15, Par 5, 573 yards – 4.427 / -0.573
- Course Record: 62: Sam Ryder (2017, Round 3), Ben Taylor (2022, Round 3), Carl Yuan (2022, Round 3), Sam Stevens (2022, Round 4)

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 62, Sam Ryder (2017, Round 3), Ben Taylor (2022, Round 3), Carl Yuan (2022, Round 3), Sam Stevens (2022, Round 4)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 131, Kris Ventura (2019)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 196, Sam Ryder (2017)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 263, Sam Ryder (2017)
- Margin of Victory: 8, Sam Ryder (2017)

Last Week on Tour – Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank (August 3-6)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Roger Sloan	66	65	63	66	260 (-24)
2	Christopher Petefish	66	62	67	66	261 (-23)
T3	Roberto Díaz	64	68	63	68	263 (-21)
	Kevin Dougherty	67	61	65	70	263 (-21)

- Canadian **Roger Sloan** capped a final-round 5-under 66 with birdies on the final two holes of regulation, hitting back-to-back approaches inside 10 feet, including a near hole-out to set up the winning putt, en route to his second career victory on the Korn Ferry Tour
 - Snapped a drought of 9 years, 1 month since his previous victory (2014 Nova Scotia Open)
 - Sloan led the field with 29 total birdies (three eagles, 26 birdies), three more than any player
- **Christopher Petefish** had just two top-10s in 33 previous Korn Ferry Tour starts, and his previous career-high finish was T3/2022 NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank
- **Roberto Díaz** recorded his second top-10 of the season (T8/The Panama Championship) and only his third top-10 since winning the 2021 Chitimacha Louisiana Open (T8/2022 Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics)
- Outright 54-hole leader **Kevin Dougherty** settled for his fifth top-10 of the season, and second top-10 in his last three starts; his only previous Korn Ferry Tour season with more than four top-10s was his rookie season in 2018 (five top-10s)