



**2023 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
(1st of 26 events on Korn Ferry Tour 2023 Schedule)**

Great Exuma, The Bahamas **January 15-18, 2023** **Points: 500 (winner)**
Sandals Emerald Bay **Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,027** **Purse: \$1,000,000 / \$180,000 (winner)**

Partial Second-Round Notes – Monday, January 16, 2023

Play was suspended due to darkness at 5:45 p.m. ET, with 12 players still needing to complete the second round. The 36-hole cut will be determined Tuesday morning following completion of the second round, which will resume at 7:30 a.m. Third-round tee times are expected to run from 9:30-11:30 a.m. off the first and 10th tees.

Weather: Mostly sunny with a high of 73. Wind N/NE 5-10 mph, gusting to 12 mph.

Partial Second-Round Leaderboard

Akshay Bhatia 67-69 - 136 (-8)
 Shad Tuten 69-67 - 136 (-8)
 Daniel Miernicki 70-67 - 137 (-7)
 Chandler Phillips 69-68 - 137 (-7)
 Cody Blick (7-under thru 15)

Things to Know

- Defending champion **Akshay Bhatia** earned a share of the 36-hole lead with a 3-under 69 in the second round as he bids to become second player in Korn Ferry Tour history to successfully defend a title
- Third-season Korn Ferry Tour member **Shad Tuten** posted a 5-under 67 for a share of the lead at 8-under par
- **Cody Blick** moved within one stroke of the lead with three holes remaining in his second round
- The outright 18-hole leader, **Jeremy Paul**, fell to T48 following a 7-over 79 in the second round
- The projected 36-hole cut is 1-over par (7-way T61), with 67 members inside the projected cut line
- Transcripts from this week’s interviews are [available here](#)

Comparing the Co-Leaders (stats entering the week)

Category	Akshay Bhatia	Shad Tuten
Age	20 (January 31, 2002)	30 (June 24, 1992)
2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 30	No. 59
Starts – wins – top-10s in Korn Ferry Tour (Career)	28-1-1	64-0-4
Starts – wins – top-10s in Korn Ferry Tour (2022)	24-1-1	24-0-1
Starts – wins – top-10s at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay	1-1-1	2-0-0

Akshay Bhatia (T1 / -8)

- Would mark first lead/co-lead prior to the final round of his Korn Ferry Tour career
- Entered the second round in a 3-way T2, two strokes behind 18-hole leader Jeremy Paul
- Second-round 3-under 69 featured a 1-over 37 on the front nine (two birdies and three bogeys) and a bogey-free 4-under 32 on the back (four birdies)
- Has a field-leading 15 birdies through 36 holes
- Has shot 3-under 69 or lower in five of his six total rounds played in this event (67-69 this week)
- [Won the 2022 Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay](#) and became the third-youngest player to win on the Korn Ferry Tour, doing so at 19 years, 11 months, and 19 days old, only behind Sungjae Im (19 years 9 months, 17 days/2018 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay) and Jason Day (19 years, 7 months, 26 days/2007 Legend Financial Classic)
- Finished 30th on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List with four top-25s in 24 starts

- Also has 20 PGA TOUR starts in his career, highlighted by a T9 finish at the 2020 Fortinet Championship

Shad Tuten (T1/-8)

- In third appearance in this event (missed cut in 2020, 2022), recorded a personal-best 5-under 67 in the second round with six birdies (Nos. 1, 4, 6, 11, 12, 17) against one bogey at the par-3 second
- Would mark the second 36-hole lead/co-lead of Korn Ferry Tour career (solo leader at 2022 Chitimacha Louisiana Open/finished T28)
- Finished 59th on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, posting five top-25s, including one top-10, across 24 starts; he finished No. 69 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Points list as a rookie
- Made his way to the Korn Ferry Tour via PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, playing the circuit from 2017-19 and finishing eighth in the 2019 Totalplay Cup for an exemption to Final Stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (finished T13 for guaranteed starts in the first eight events of what became the 2020-21 season)
- Played collegiately at Darton State College and Armstrong State University (exhausted eligibility summer 2014), but would not turn professional until 2016

Quotables

- **Akshay Bhatia** on being in contention after winning this event last year: "It's obviously very nice to be back, very comfortable. It's hard not to be happy starting the year in The Bahamas, and to have two weeks of it, it's super cool and we're very fortunate that the Korn Ferry Tour can host events like this. It was good. A little scruffy today. Obviously we haven't played at all in the last four months, so just getting back to the roots and everything."
- **Shad Tuten** on his second round and making the cut: "I did a lot right. I played to basically what I wanted to do pretty much the whole day and really yesterday, too. Hit a couple bad tee balls yesterday, but today I kind of kept it in play and kept it in front of me and made a couple extra putts today. Honestly, I just wanted to come here and have fun. I've had fun the other two times but I shot a million. It's just nice to be able to be in some heat and some sunshine and the wind. It's just really nice to be back in The Bahamas."

Notes

- **Daniel Miernicki** (T3 / -7), making his 46th career Korn Ferry Tour start, sits one shot off the lead in search of his first top-10 on the Korn Ferry Tour (previous best is a T16 at the 2020 King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village)
- **Chandler Phillips** (T3 / -7) eagled the par-5 first and made four birdies and two bogeys; he finished T10 at Final Stage of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament for a third consecutive season of membership
- **Josh Teater** (T6 / -6) is the only player in the field without a bogey through 36 holes
- **Patrick Newcomb** (T13 / -4) and **Austin Squires** (T48 / E) are the only sponsor exemptions projected to make the cut
- **Quade Cummins** (T48 / -6) and **Andrew Kozan** (T20 /-3) carded the most birdies of any player to complete their second round (eight apiece)

Cumulative Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total): 72.900 [+0.900]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine – Par 36): 36.374 [-0.374]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine – Par 35): 36.522 [+0.522]
- Toughest Hole: No. 5, Par 4, 499 yards – 4.393 [+0.393]
- Easiest Hole: No. 1, Par 5, 532 yards – 4.542 [-0.458]