

Pre-Tournament Notes – UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH

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Dates: June 1-4, 2023

Where: Raleigh, North Carolina

Course: Raleigh Country Club (Par 70 / 7,394 yards)

Course Designer: Donald Ross (1948), Kyle Franz (2020 renovation)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 156 players

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

Defending Champion: Davis Thompson

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 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH marks the 12th tournament of the Korn Ferry Tour's 26-event schedule
- This will be the 29th playing of the UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH, with Raleigh Country Club hosting for the fourth time in the history of the event and for the first time since three consecutive years from 1998 through 2000
- The inaugural UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH was played in 1994, when Skip Kendall held off future World No. 1 and 2001 Open Championship winner David Duval for the title
- Two past champions are returning to Raleigh this week: **Joey Garber** (2018) and **Scott Gutschewski** (2008)
- Gutschewski earned his third career Korn Ferry Tour win earlier this season at the LECOM Suncoast Classic, and his first win since the 2008 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH
 - There were 14 years, 10 months, and 15 days between Gutschewski's win at the 2008 UNC Health Championship and 2023 LECOM Suncoast Classic, the second-largest gap between wins in Korn Ferry Tour history
- **Carter Jenkins** and **Grayson Murray**, who won the AdventHealth Championship earlier this month, are both Raleigh, North Carolina natives
- Eight of the 13 players who finished T10 or better in last season's event earned a PGA TOUR card at season's end: Davis Thompson (1st), Vincent Norrman (T2), Will Gordon (4th), Harry Hall (5th), Paul Haley II (6th), Carl Yuan (T7), Tyson Alexander (T10), and **Nicholas Lindheim** (T10)
- In addition to Jenkins and Murray players in the field with ties to the state of North Carolina include **Ryan Blaum** (Durham resident), **Trevor Cone** (Charlotte native and resident), **Patrick Cover** (Mooresville native, Charlotte resident), sponsor exemption **Trace Crowe** (Charlotte resident), **Taylor Dickson** (Gastonia native), **Brandon Hagy** (Charlotte resident), **Brad Hopfinger** (Charlotte resident), **David Kocher** (Charlotte resident), **Ben Kohles** (plays from Cary), **Thomas Walsh** (High Point native)
- Six players in the field played collegiately in the state of North Carolina:
 - Duke University (2) – **Ryan Blaum**, **Max Greyserman**
 - Campbell University (1) – **Pontus Nyholm**
 - High Point University (1) – **Jay Card III**
 - University of North Carolina (1) – **Carter Jenkins**
 - University of North Carolina-Wilmington (1) – **Patrick Cover**
- By finishing No. 1 in the 2022-23 Advocate Professional Golf Association (APGA) Collegiate Rankings, Michigan State University's Troy Taylor II earned a sponsor exemption and will make his Korn Ferry Tour debut this week; Taylor finished his collegiate career earlier this month with a career scoring average of 73.27, which ranks third in school history

- In addition to this week's UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH, Taylor also qualified for the 2024 APGA Tour Farmers Insurance Invitational at Torrey Pines
- A junior at Indiana University, Drew Salyers earned a sponsor exemption this week by virtue of winning last October's Williams Cup presented by STITCH, hosted by the University of North Carolina at Eagle Point Golf Club in Wilmington
- 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

Field Notes (as of 5/30/2023)

- Field features 45 of the top 50 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List
- Nine champions from the first 11 events of the 2023 season are in this week's field:
 - **Ben Kohles** (two wins), **Pierceson Coody**, **Rhein Gibson**, **Scott Gutschewski**, **Rico Hoey**, **Spencer Levin**, **Grayson Murray**, and **Chandler Phillips**
- Field includes 42 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 63 total victories, led by **Ben Kohles** with four
- Field includes seven past PGA TOUR winners with 17 total victories, led by **Mark Wilson** with five
- Field includes four players currently inside top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Pierceson Coody** (No. 152), **Rico Hoey** (No. 159), **Yuto Katsuragawa** (No. 182) and **Ben Kohles** (No. 198)

2022 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH Recap (June 2-5, 2022)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Davis Thompson	64	66	68	69	267 (-17)
T2	Andrew Yun	68	64	68	68	268 (-16)
	Vincent Norrman	66	69	65	68	268 (-16)
4	Will Gordon	68	68	67	66	269 (-15)
5	Harry Hall	70	65	68	67	270 (-14)

- Davis Thompson, who led by two strokes after the second and third round, earned the first win of his Korn Ferry Tour career on his 23rd birthday
- Thompson, who finished No. 2 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021, became the second PGA TOUR University alum to win a Korn Ferry Tour event, joining Trevor Werbylo; **Pierceson Coody** (2022 Live and Work in Maine Open, 2023 Panama Championship) later became the third PGA TOUR University alum to win on Tour

- Thompson earned a PGA TOUR card at season’s end, joining Austin Eckroat, Werbylo, and Kevin Yu as the first PGA TOUR University alumni to earn TOUR membership
- Vincent Norrman, a rookie in his 14th start, recorded his second top-three finish in his previous four starts, which propelled him to a PGA TOUR card at season’s end; he made just three bogeys all week, two fewer scores of bogey or worse than any other player in the field
- Making his 88th career Korn Ferry Tour start, **Andrew Yun** recorded his third career runner-up finish on Tour; the previous two came in 2017 at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay and BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX, which propelled him to a PGA TOUR card that season
- Will Gordon, a native of Davidson, North Carolina, recorded his highest finish on the Korn Ferry Tour up to that point; he later won the 2022 Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron to secure his PGA TOUR card for the 2022-23 season
- Harry Hall led the field with 26 birdies as he followed a win with his fourth career top-five finish; he earned his first PGA TOUR card at season’s end and finished T3 last week on TOUR at the 2023 Charles Schwab Challenge

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Davis Thompson	64	66	68	69	267 (-17)	1
2021	Mito Pereira	62	67	67	67	263 (-21)	Playoff
2019	Sebastian Cappelén	65	65	69	64	263 (-21)	3
2018	Joey Garber	66	65	69	66	266 (-18)	1
2017	Conrad Shindler	68	69	65	67	269 (-15)	Playoff
2016	Trey Mullinax	68	67	67	68	270 (-14)	2
2015	Kyle Thompson	63	68	69	67	267 (-17)	Playoff
2014	Byron Smith	70	69	63	66	268 (-16)	4
2013	Chesson Hadley	63	69	69	64	265 (-19)	2
2012	James Hahn	67	68	69	67	271 (-13)	Playoff
2011	Kyle Thompson	68	66	68	68	270 (-14)	1
2010	John Riegger	66	64	63	--	193 (-20)	5
2009	Kevin Johnson	65	69	65	67	266 (-18)	Playoff
2008	Scott Gutschewski	67	69	68	66	270 (-14)	2
2007	Kyle Thompson	64	65	69	70	268 (-16)	2
2006	Brenden Pappas	66	68	65	69	268 (-16)	1
2005	Eric Axley	69	67	67	67	270 (-14)	2
2004	Chris Anderson	67	70	66	68	271 (-13)	Playoff
2003	David Morland IV	66	68	66	68	268 (-16)	1
2002	Zoran Zorkic	70	67	66	71	274 (-10)	1
2001	John Maginnes	68	65	66	70	269 (-15)	2
2000	Mark Hensby	64	68	68	66	266 (-18)	Playoff
1999	Vance Veazey	68	67	67	67	269 (-15)	1
1998	Brian Bateman	68	66	67	65	266 (-18)	1
1997	Ahmad Bateman	70	69	75	70	284 (-4)	1
1996	Glen Hnatiuk	71	70	64	--	205 (-11)	Playoff
1995	Michael Christie	68	66	66	66	266 (-22)	2
1994	Skip Kendall	65	72	70	69	276 (-12)	2

Course Information – Raleigh Country Club

- Years Hosted: 1998-2000, 2023
- Previous Setup (last in 2000): Par 71 / 6,724 yards
- Scoring Average (2000): 70.275 / -0.725
- Toughest Hole (2000): No. 7, Par 4, 457 yards – 4.247 / +0.247
- Easiest Hole (2000): No. 1, Par 5, 510 yards – 4.513 / -0.487

- Course Record: 60, Jimmy Green (1998, Round 1)

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 60, Jimmy Green (1998, Round 1), Chris Baker (2019, Round 2)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 127, Chris Baker (2019)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 193, John Riegger (2010)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 263, Sebastian Cappelen (2019), Mito Pereira and Stephan Jaeger (2021)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 5, John Riegger (2010)
- Playoffs: 8, last in 2021 (Mito Pereira defeated Stephan Jaeger)

Last Week on Tour – Visit Knoxville Open (May 25-28)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Rico Hoey	64	71	66	65	266 (-14)
T2	Chase Seiffert	71	67	64	65	267 (-13)
	Norman Xiong	68	66	64	69	267 (-13)
T4	Three players tied	-	-	-	-	268 (-12)

- **Rico Hoey** drained a 15-footer for birdie on the 72nd hole to earn his first Korn Ferry Tour victory in his 83rd career start on Tour
- Hoey joined **Chandler Phillips** (The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay) and **Spencer Levin** (Veritex Bank Championship as first-time Korn Ferry Tour winners this season
- Hoey’s victory was also his Korn Ferry Tour-leading sixth top-10 of the season, as well as his fourth top-three finish in his last six starts; he entered 2023 with four top-10s in 72 previous starts on Tour
- Outright 54-hole leader **Norman Xiong** closed with bogey-free 1-under 69 and finished the week with two bogeys in 72 holes, two fewer than anyone in the field
- Xiong earned his first top-10 since winning the 2022 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics as an open qualifier last June
- **Chase Seiffert** carded a 5-under 65 in the final round to clinch his second top-10 of the season (T3/LECOM Suncoast Classic) and his highest finish on Tour since T2 at 2019 Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch
- Five players not already qualified for this week’s UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH earned spots in the field with top-25s: University of Tennessee alum and sponsor exemption Spencer Cross (T10 / -10), Knoxville, Tennessee native and open qualifier Ryan Hall (T16 / -9), and conditional members **Wilson Furr** (T23 / -8), **RJ Manke** (T16 / -9), who played via a sponsor exemption, and **Trent Phillips** (T23 / -8)