



Pre-Tournament Notes – Veritex Bank Championship

On-Site PGA TOUR Media Contact: Hagan Parkman, 817-983-3251 haganparkman@pgatourhq.com

Dates: April 13-16, 2023

Where: Arlington, Texas

Course: Texas Rangers Golf Club (Par 71 / 7,010 yards)

Course Designer: John Colligan, Trey Kemp (2019)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 156 players

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

Defending Champion: Tyson Alexander (2021, 2022)

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](#)

News

- [Chandler Phillips Hits Bullseye with Opening-Week Win](#)
- [The Coody Twins are Ready to Run](#) (from appearance at The Honda Classic)
- [What John Augenstein Learned Making Masters Cut as Amateur](#)
- [Spencer Levin's Emotional Week at Astara Chile Classic](#)
- [Fitness the Focus for New-Look Rafael Campos](#)

Things to Know

- Following an off week, the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season continues with the Veritex Bank Championship, the seventh tournament of the 26-event schedule
- This year marks the third playing of the Veritex Bank Championship, with Texas Rangers Golf Club hosting the previous iterations
- Reigning back-to-back champion Tyson Alexander became the first player in Korn Ferry Tour history (established in 1990) to successfully defend a title with victories at the 2021 and 2022 Veritex Bank Championships
 - Alexander continued a strong run in Texas-based PGA TOUR-sanctioned events with a solo-second at the 2022 Cadence Bank Houston Open last November; he is currently No. 71 on the 2022-23 FedExCup Standings
- Six players who finished T7 or higher at last year's Veritex Bank Championship earned PGA TOUR cards at season's end – Tyson Alexander (Winner), Byeong Hun An (T2), Taylor Montgomery (T4), Nico Echavarria (T4), Augusto Núñez (T7), Justin Suh (T7)
 - Echavarria won in his 11th PGA TOUR start and became the first Class of 2022 graduate to win on TOUR at the 2023 Puerto Rico Open
- Nine native Texans are in this week's field, four of whom are Veritex Bank ambassadors **Parker Coody** (Plano), **Pierceson Coody** (Plano), **Martin Flores** (Fort Worth), and **Paul Haley II** (Dallas); the other native Texans in the field are **Bronson Burgoon** (The Woodlands), **Chad Campbell** (Andrews), **Zack Fischer** (Texarkana), **Ben Kohles** (Dallas), and **Chandler Phillips** (Huntsville)
- 14 members in this week's field played collegiately in Texas:
 - University of Texas (3) – **Parker Coody**, **Pierceson Coody**, **Cole Hammer** (sponsor exemption) [all Veritex Bank ambassadors]
 - Southern Methodist University (2) – **Noah Goodwin**, **Mac Meissner** [Veritex Bank ambassadors]
 - Texas A&M University (2) – **Bronson Burgoon**, **Chandler Phillips**
 - Texas Christian University (2) – **Paul Barjon**, **Hayden Springer**
 - Baylor University (1) – **Kyle Jones**

- Rice University (1) – **Mitchell Meissner** [Veritex Bank ambassador]
- University of North Texas (1) – **Thomas Rosenmueller**
- University of Texas-Arlington (1) – **Zack Fischer**
- University of Texas-El Paso (1) – **Roger Sloan**
- Other notable players in the field with tied to the state of Texas include **Grant Hirschman** (Dallas resident, Veritex Bank ambassador) and **Tom Whitney** (plays from Dallas)
- 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 4/11/23)

- Field includes 46 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 68 total wins, both season highs, including all six winners from the 2023 season (**Pierceson Coody, Rhein Gibson, Ben Kohles, Chandler Phillips, Ben Silverman, David Skinnis**) and eight winners from 2022 (Coody, **Zecheng Dou, Paul Haley II, Brandon Harkins, David Kocher, Andrew Kozan, T.J. Vogel, Norman Xiong**)
- Field includes seven PGA TOUR winners with 17 total wins, led by **Chad Campbell** and **Camilo Villegas** with four apiece
- Field includes six players currently inside top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Eric Cole** (No. 152), **Yuto Katsuragawa** (No. 163), **Pierceson Coody** (No. 174), **Paul Haley II** (No. 186), **Kaito Onishi** (No. 197), and **Chan Kim** (No. 198)

2022 Veritex Bank Championship Recap (April 13-16)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Tyson Alexander	65	66	66	65	262 (-22)
T2	Byeong Hun An	68	62	68	66	264 (-20)
	Pontus Nyholm	68	64	70	62	264 (-20)
T4	Three Tied	--	--	--	--	265 (-19)

- Tyson Alexander trailed by three strokes entering the final round, but carded a bogey-free 6-under 65 in the final round for a two-stroke victory, becoming the first player in Korn Ferry Tour history to successfully defend a title and win the same tournament two consecutive years
- Alexander led the field in greens in regulation percentage (63 of 72 / 87.5 percent) and played the back nine at 14-under par for the week
- Alexander finished No. 18 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and earned his first PGA TOUR card for the 2022-23 season

- Paired with a win from February 2022, Byeong Hun An's T2 propelled him to No. 13 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and secured a return to the PGA TOUR
- **Pontus Nyholm** was one of five players in the final round alone who tied the 18-hole tournament scoring record with a 9-under 62; he also rose from T24 to T2 in the final round and came away with his first top-10 on the Korn Ferry Tour
- **Martin Flores**, a Veritex Bank ambassador, rose to a T4 finish with a final-round 8-under 63 and recorded his first top-10 since July 2019
- The 18-hole scoring average in the final round was 66.900, the lowest single-round average in Korn Ferry Tour history

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Tyson Alexander	65	66	66	65	262 (-22)	2
2021	Tyson Alexander	69	65	64	68	261 (-23)	1

Course Information – Texas Rangers Golf Club

- Years Hosted: 2021-Present
- Scoring Average (2022): 68.699 / -2.301
- Toughest Hole (2022): No. 4, Par 4, 512 yards – 4.212 / +0.212
- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 9, Par 5, 532 yards – 4.321 / -0.679
- Course Record: 59, Scottie Scheffler (May 4, 2020 – not in competition)

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 62, Anders Albertson (2021, Round 1; 2022, Round 4), **Paul Barjon** (2021, Round 2), MJ Daffue (2022, Round 1), Byeong Hun An (2022, Round 2), **Alex Chiarella** (2022, Round 2), Chase Parker (2022, Round 2), Nico Echavarria (2022, Round 4), S.H. Kim (2022, Round 4), **Pontus Nyholm** (2022, Round 4), Ryan Ruffels (2022, Round 4)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 127, Anders Albertson, **Dan McCarthy**, and Theo Humphrey (2021)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 192, Theo Humphrey (2021)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 261, Tyson Alexander (2021)

Last Time on Tour – Astara Chile Classic (March 30-April 2)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Ben Kohles	68	66	66	67	267 (-21)
2	Dimi Papadatos	66	69	67	65	267 (-21)
T3	Rico Hoey	70	65	64	70	269 (-19)
	Tim Widing	71	64	66	68	269 (-19)

- **Ben Kohles** defeated rookie **Dimi Papadatos** with a birdie on the second hole a sudden-death playoff for his third Korn Ferry Tour victory and first since back-to-back victories in 2012 in his first two Korn Ferry Tour starts
- Kohles' gap between his second and third win on the Korn Ferry Tour was 10 years, 7 months, 28 days, the seventh-largest gap between victories in Korn Ferry Tour history
- Papadatos posted a runner-up finish in his first career Korn Ferry Tour start; he earned conditional membership with a T59 finish at Final Stage of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
- **Rico Hoey**, now in his fourth season as a Korn Ferry Tour member, posted a career-high finish and his third top-10 in the last four events (T8/The Panama Championship; T7/Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard)
- Rookie **Tim Widing** birdied three of the final five holes (Nos. 14, 17, 18) and rose to a career-high finish in his sixth Korn Ferry Tour start, as well as his second consecutive top-10 (T8/2023 Club Car Championship at The Landings Golf & Athletic Club)
- Widing led the field with 29 total birdies (28 birdies, one eagle)

- Conditional members who earned a spot in this week's Veritex Bank Championship with a top-25 were **Wade Binfield** (T25), **Michael Feagles** (T25), **Brad Hopfinger** (T25), **Dalton Ward** (T25), **Jackson Suber** (T15), and **Dimi Papadatos** (2nd)
- Open qualifier Chase Johnson, formerly a Korn Ferry Tour member for the 2020-21 season, also earned a spot in this week's field with a T25 finish