

## Pre-Tournament Notes – Visit Knoxville Open

**On-Site PGA TOUR Media Contacts:** Hagan Parkman, 817-983-3251, [haganparkman@pgatourhq.com](mailto:haganparkman@pgatourhq.com)

**Dates:** May 25-28, 2023

**Where:** Knoxville, Tennessee

**Course:** Holston Hills Country Club (Par 70 / 7,218 yards)

**Course Designer:** Donald Ross (1927), Tom Doak (1998 renovation)

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

**Field:** 156 players

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

**Defending Champion:** Anders Albertson

### 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 Visit Knoxville Open marks the 11th tournament of the Korn Ferry Tour's 26-event schedule
- This week will be the 33rd edition of the Visit Knoxville Open, one of four tournaments on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour schedule held every season since the Tour's establishment in 1990
  - The other three events with such distinction are the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics, Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper, and the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron
- Historic Holston Hills Country Club, a Donald Ross design which opened in 1927, is hosting the Visit Knoxville Open for a third consecutive year
- Three-time PGA TOUR winner and Knoxville resident Scott Stallings plays and practices at Holston Hills
- Notable past champions of the Visit Knoxville Open include five-time PGA TOUR winner Chris Kirk (2010) and PGA TOUR winner and Knoxville resident Peter Malnati (2013)
- Four-time PGA TOUR winner **Heath Slocum**, winner of the 2001 Visit Knoxville Open, is the only past champion in the field this week
- Reigning champion Anders Albertson eventually finished No. 25 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and secured a return to the PGA TOUR
- Four of the top five players from last year's Visit Knoxville Open earned PGA TOUR cards at season's end
  - Anders Albertson (Winner), Carl Yuan (2nd), MJ Daffue (3rd), Taylor Montgomery (T4)
- **John Augenstein** (Vanderbilt University) and **Dawson Armstrong** (Lipscomb University) played collegiately in the state of Tennessee
- University of Tennessee's Jake Hall and Caleb Surratt both Monday qualified into the field
- Players in the field with ties to the state of Tennessee include **Dawson Armstrong** (plays from Brentwood), **Grant Hirschman** (Memphis native), **Wes Roach** (Knoxville native and resident), and **Scott Stevens** (plays from Chattanooga)
- 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 5/22/2023)**

- Field features 44 of the top 50 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List
- Five of this season’s winners are in the field: **Ben Kohles** (two wins), **Rhein Gibson**, **Spencer Levin**, **Grayson Murray**, **Chandler Phillips**
- Field includes 42 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 60 total victories, led by **Ben Kohles** with four
- Field Includes nine PGA TOUR winners with 22 total victories, led by **Mark Wilson** with five
- Two players in the field are currently inside the top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Yuto Katsuragawa** (No. 171) and **Ben Kohles** (No. 194)

**2022 Visit Knoxville Open Recap (May 12-15)**

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Anders Albertson	62	67	65	66	260 (-20)
2	Carl Yuan	68	65	62	66	261 (-19)
3	MJ Daffue	64	65	68	65	262 (-18)
T4	Taylor Montgomery	65	68	63	68	264 (-16)
	Sean O’Hair	65	67	65	67	264 (-16)

- Anders Albertson led or co-led after every round en route to his second career Korn Ferry Tour victory and first since 2018, which led to him securing a PGA TOUR card at season’s end
- Albertson trailed by two strokes with five holes left in the final round before back-to-back birdies at Nos. 14 and 15, along with a two-putt birdie for the win at the par-5 18th
- Albertson made one bogey the entire week (at the par-3 11th in the second round), the fewest in the field
- Carl Yuan carded a career-low 8-under 62 in the third round and finished the week with 24 birdies, two more total birdies than anyone in the field
- Yuan led by two strokes through 13 holes of the final round, but settled for one of his three runner-up finishes which helped secure his first PGA TOUR card at season’s end
- MJ Daffue shared the 36-hole lead but settled for one of his seven top-10s which propelled him to his first PGA TOUR card at season’s end
- Taylor Montgomery carded four rounds in the 60s, highlighted by a 7-under 63 in the third round for one of his nine top-10s of the season and eventually earned his first PGA TOUR card at season’s end

**Past Champions**

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2022	Anders Albertson	62	67	65	66	260 (-20)	1
2021	Greyson Sigg	61	68	65	66	260 (-20)	1
2019	Robby Shelton	67	65	66	71	269 (-15)	1
2018	Stephan Jaeger	68	72	64	64	268 (-16)	3
2017	Talor Gooch	66	67	68	65	266 (-18)	1
2016	J.J. Spaun	66	62	64	66	258 (-26)	1
2015	Patton Kizzire	68	68	64	64	264 (-20)	4

2014	Martin Piller	65	67	67	63	262 (-22)	2
2013	Peter Malnati	70	67	66	65	268 (-16)	1
2012	Darron Stiles	67	66	66	67	266 (-18)	1
2011	Kirk Triplett	67	64	68	68	267 (-21)	2
2010	Chris Kirk	68	70	63	67	268 (-20)	2
2009	Kevin Johnson	67	65	68	68	268 (-20)	Playoff
2008	Jarrod Lyle	66	67	67	69	269 (-19)	Playoff
2007	Chez Reavie	68	70	65	68	271 (-17)	3
2006	Hunter Haas	67	66	67	69	269 (-19)	5
2005	Kim Felton	71	70	67	69	277 (-11)	1
2004	Hunter Haas	71	68	67	69	275 (-13)	Playoff
2003	Vaughn Taylor	68	69	67	64	268 (-20)	Playoff
2002	Darron Stiles	71	69	64	68	272 (-16)	1
2001	Heath Slocum	64	68	65	68	265 (-23)	6
2000	J.J. Henry	67	67	66	73	273 (-15)	1
1999	Jeff Gove	69	69	68	71	277 (-11)	1
1998	Robin Freeman	68	66	66	70	270 (-18)	Playoff
1997	Dave Rummells	65	70	70	66	271 (-17)	2
1996	Eric Johnson	68	66	69	69	272 (-16)	2
1995	Tom Scherrer	71	69	68	67	275 (-13)	Playoff
1994	Vic Wilk	70	71	68	66	275 (-9)	1
1993	Tim Conley	65	63	66	67	261 (-23)	7
1992	Brian Henninger	70	67	63		200 (-13)	2
1991	Frank Conner	63	68	67		198 (-15)	1
1990	Jeff Maggert	70	66	66		202 (-11)	Playoff

### Course Information – Holston Hills Country Club

- Years Hosted: 2021-Present
- Scoring Average (2022): 69.047 / -0.953
- Toughest Hole (2022): No. 17, Par 4, 520 yards – 4.271 / +0.271
- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 18, Par 5, 541 yards – 4.499 / -0.501
- Course Record: 61, Seth Reeves (2021, Round 4), Greyson Sigg (2021, Round 1), Andrew Pratt (2004), Walt Chapman (1993)

### Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 61, Seth Reeves (2021, Round 4), Greyson Sigg (2021, Round 1), Grayson Murray (2016, Round 2), Keith Mitchell (2016, Round 1)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 126, Stephan Jaeger (2021)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 191, Sam Ryder (2016), Stephan Jaeger (2021)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 258, J.J. Spaun (2016)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 7, Tim Conley (1993)
- Playoffs: 6, last in 2009 (Kevin Johnson defeated Bradley Iles)

### Last Week on Tour – AdventHealth Championship

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Grayson Murray	68	69	64	68	269 (-19)
T2	Wilson Furr	63	71	65	71	270 (-18)
	Rico Hoey	69	66	67	68	270 (-18)
4	Alejandro Tosti	70	66	67	69	272 (-16)

- **Grayson Murray**, a previous winner on both the PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour, double bogeyed the 72nd hole but held on for a one-stroke victory, his first Korn Ferry Tour win since the 2016 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship
- Rookie **Wilson Furr**, the outright 54-hole leader who held at least a share of the lead after each round this week, followed his first career top-25 (T7/HomeTown Lenders Championship) with another career-high finish; he set the tournament course record earlier in the week with a 9-under 63 in the first round and posted the lowest 54-hole score (17-under 199) by two strokes in the four times this event has been played since its relocation to Blue Hills Country Club in 2019
- **Rico Hoey** played his final seven holes in 3-under par to record a career-high finish in his 82nd career start on the Korn Ferry Tour, as well as his fifth top-10 in 10 starts this season; his previous career-high finish on Tour was T3 on two occasions (2023 Veritex Bank Championship, 2023 Astara Chile Classic), and he entered the 2023 season with four top-10s in 72 career starts on Tour
- Rookie **Alejandro Tosti** birdied the 72nd hole and rose to a career-high finish, as well as his third top-10 in nine starts this season (T10/Veritex Bank Championship; T7/Astara Chile Classic)
- Rookie and Monday qualifier **Parker Coody** (T5/-14) tied **Logan McAllister** (T9/-12) for the low round Sunday, a 7-under 65, and posted his first top-25 in his sixth start of the season, which earned him a spot in this week's field
- **Jake Knapp** (T9/-12) closed with a bogey-free 4-under 68 for his fourth top-10 in nine starts this season; he entered the 2023 season with one top-10 in his previous 36 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour (all in 2020-21 season)