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## Pre-Tournament Notes – PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry (Final Stage)

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**Dates:** December 14-17, 2023

**Where:** Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

**Host:** TPC Sawgrass (Dye's Valley Course) [Par 70 / 6,850 yards]

**Course Designer:** Pete Dye & Bobby Weed (1987)

**Other Course:** Sawgrass Country Club (East-West) [Par 70 / 7,054 yards]

**Course Designer:** Ed Seay (1974); Robert Walker (2014 renovation)

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play, no cut

**Field:** 165 players

**Purse:** \$510,000 (\$50,000/winner)

### Quick Links

- [Tournament Media Site](#) (for tee times, transcripts, media hub access)
- [Inside The Field: Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry](#)
- [How It Works: PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry](#)

### Telecast / Livestreaming Coverage Times

- *Saturday, December 16 (Round 3)* – 12:30-2:30 p.m. ET [Peacock / Golf Channel Digital]; 2:30-4:30 p.m. [Golf Channel]
- *Sunday, December 17 (Round 4)* – 12:30-1:30 p.m. ET [Peacock / Golf Channel Digital]; 1:30-4:30 p.m. ET [Golf Channel]

### Things to Know

- After a decade of solely awarding varying levels of Korn Ferry Tour membership, Final Stage of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry marks the first time since 2012 there are PGA TOUR cards (i.e. – membership) on the line at Q-School
- Upon conclusion of Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry – which will see the field play two 18-hole rounds at both Dye's Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass and Sawgrass Country Club – the top five finishers and ties will earn PGA TOUR membership for 2024
- In addition to awarding PGA TOUR cards, PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry determines 2024 season eligibility for the Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Americas, with the following performance benefits available at Final Stage:
  - **Top Five and Ties:** PGA TOUR membership for 2024
  - **Next 40 Finishers and Ties:** Exempt for multiple reshuffles of the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season
    - The first 25 finishers and ties in this category will be subject to the third reshuffle, assuring them starts in the first 12 events of the 2024 season
    - Any remaining finishers within the category will be subject to the second reshuffle, assuring them starts in the first eight events of the 2024 season
  - **Next 20 Finishers and Ties (following the Next 40 Finishers and Ties):** Earn exempt status for the Latin America Swing of the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas season, in addition to conditional Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2024 season
  - All remaining finishers outside of the aforementioned categories earn conditional Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Americas membership for the 2024 season

## Field Notes (as of 12/12/2023)

- **Keita Nakajima**, who turned professional in September 2022 after a decorated amateur career, is the only player in the field inside the top 100 of the Official World Golf Ranking, entering this week at No. 90
  - Nakajima, 23, finished No. 1 on the 2023 Japan Golf Tour Order of Merit, thus earning an exemption for Final Stage; he won three times on the Japan Golf Tour in 2023, and previously won the tour's 2021 Panasonic Open as an amateur
  - Nakajima's amateur achievements included victories at the 2018 Australian Amateur, 2018 Asian Games, and 2021 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, in addition to spending a record 87 total weeks at No. 1 of the World Amateur Golf Ranking prior to turning professional; he also became the first male multi-time winner of the Mark H. McCormack Medal (2021, 2022), which recognizes the No. 1 player in WAGR following The Amateur, U.S. Amateur, or European Amateur, whichever event is held later in the year
- Four other Order of Merit winners from international tours also earned exemptions to Final Stage [Note: PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica merged and formed PGA TOUR Americas, which will play its inaugural season in 2024]
  - **Chandler Blanchet** – No. 1 in 2023 Totalplay Cup (PGA TOUR Latinoamérica)
  - **Jeongwoo Ham** – Korean Professional Golfers' Association
  - **David Micheluzzi** – PGA Tour of Australasia
  - **Hayden Springer** – No. 1 in 2023 Fortinet Cup (PGA TOUR Canada)
- The top five players from the 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking earned exemptions to Final Stage, though No. 1 Ludvig Åberg (2023 RSM Classic winner) and No. 3 Adrien Dumont de Chassart (top 30 from 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List) earned PGA TOUR membership for 2024 and are not in this week's field
  - No. 2 **Fred Biondi** (University of Florida) – 2023 NCAA Championship medalist
  - No. 4 **Ross Steelman** (Georgia Tech) – 2023 NCAA Championship runner-up
  - No. 5 **Sam Bennett** (Texas A&M) – 2022 U.S. Amateur Championship winner
- The youngest player in the field is South African **Aldrich Potgieter**, who turned 19 this past September and is 3 years, 2 months, and 4 days younger than the next-youngest player in the field, 22-year-old **Sudarshan Yellamaraju**; the only other players in the field under the age of 23 are Korn Ferry Tour winner **Ricky Castillo** (22) and his former teammate at University of Florida, **Fred Biondi** (22), who turns 23 the day of the third round (December 16)
  - Potgieter won the 2022 Amateur Championship at age 17 (making him the second-youngest winner in the event's history) and turned professional earlier this year after appearances as an amateur at the 2023 Masters Tournament, U.S. Open, and the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday; he made his professional debut at the Korn Ferry Tour's 2023 Compliance Solutions Championship, where he finished T35 as a sponsor exemption this past June
  - Potgieter also Monday qualified for the Korn Ferry Tour's 2023 NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank and played the PGA TOUR's 2023 Rocket Mortgage Classic as a sponsor exemption in July, and finished T6 at the 2023 South African PGA Championship in September
  - *Potgieter's path to Final Stage*: Exempt to Second Stage (made cut at 2023 U.S. Open) → Medalist by four strokes at Second Stage (Valdosta, Georgia – Kinderlou Forest Golf Club)
- Two players in the Final Stage field – **Caleb Hicks** and **Wes Homan** – began their journey through PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry at Pre-Qualifying
  - Hicks, 23, concluded a five-season career at University of Texas-Arlington this past summer, finishing with a 73.96 career scoring average; he also finished third at the 2016 UIL Class 6A Boys Golf State Championship as a sophomore at Arlington (Texas) Lamar High School, notably finishing ahead of Pierceson and Parker Coody, who both finished T4
  - *Hicks' path to Final Stage*:
    - T9 at Pre-Qualifying (Gunter, Texas – The Bridges Golf Club – Top 38 and ties advanced)

- T19 at First Stage (Rockwall, Texas – Rockwall Golf & Athletic Club – Top 20 and ties advanced)
    - T11 at Second Stage (Port St. Lucie, Florida – The Tesoro Club [Palmer] – Top 15 and ties advanced)
  - Homan, 39, is returning to competitive golf after working full-time as an operations manager in his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio; he previously reached Final Stage of the 2014 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament and finished T54 for conditional membership in 2015, though he recorded six missed cuts in as many starts that season and developed the putting yips, which prompted him to leave professional golf and transition to working a full-time job by 2017
  - *Homan's path to Final Stage:*
    - T6 at Pre-Qualifying (Chardon, Ohio – Mayfield Sand Ridge Club [Sand Ridge] – Top 38 and ties advanced)
    - T19 at First Stage (ChampionsGate, Florida – ChampionsGate Golf Club [International] – Top 20 and ties advanced)
    - T7 at Second Stage (Port St. Lucie, Florida – The Tesoro Club [Palmer] – Top 15 and ties advanced)
- Field features 19 PGA TOUR winners, including four-time TOUR winners **Sean O'Hair** and **Scott Piercy**

Charlie Beljan	Wesley Bryan	Kevin Chappell
Austin Cook	Brice Garnett	Fabián Gómez
Cody Gribble	Sung Kang	Patton Kizzire (2)
Russell Knox (2)	Satoshi Kodaira	Adam Long
S.Y. Noh	Sean O'Hair (4)	Scott Piercy (4)
Robert Streb (2)	Martin Trainer	Kevin Tway
Richy Werenski		
- Field features 16 First Coast residents, including Jacksonville University alums **Russell Knox** and **Raul Pereda**

Dawson Armstrong (Jacksonville)	Fred Biondi (Jacksonville)	Chandler Blanchet (Jacksonville Beach)
Cody Blick (Jacksonville)	Dillon Board (Jacksonville)	Ricky Castillo (Jacksonville)
Brett Drewitt (Ponte Vedra Beach)	Taylor Funk (Jacksonville)	Tano Goya (Ponte Vedra Beach)
Russell Knox (Ponte Vedra Beach)	Raul Pereda (Jacksonville)	Doc Redman (Jacksonville Beach)
Matthias Schwab (Ponte Vedra Beach)	Julian Suri (St. Augustine)	Danny Walker (Jacksonville)
Thomas Walsh (Jacksonville)		

### Seeking Status Improvements

- Numerous Final Stage entrants and qualifiers already earned PGA TOUR or Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2024 season, making Q-School an opportunity to improve their status
  - Final Stage entrants who finished Nos. 126-150 on final 2022-23 FedExCup Playoffs & Eligibility Points List and will have, at minimum, conditional status on TOUR in 2024:
 

Austin Cook	Zecheng Dou	Harrison Endycott
Paul Haley II	Kramer Hickok	Harry Higgs
Patton Kizzire	Russell Knox	Kelly Kraft
Adam Long	Henrik Norlander	Scott Piercy
Matthias Schwab	Austin Smotherman	
  - Final Stage qualifiers who finished Nos. 31-75 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List have already earned fully exempt status for the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season (Nos. 31-60 also earned an exemption for Final Stage):
 

No. 31 Jorge Fernandez Valdes	No. 33 Chase Seiffert	No. 34 Carter Jenkins
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No. 35 Matt McCarty	No. 36 Mason Andersen	No. 37 Jackson Suber
No. 38 Trace Crowe	No. 39 Taylor Dickson	No. 40 Rhein Gibson
No. 41 Cody Blick	No. 42 John VanDerLaan	No. 43 Brett Drewitt
No. 44 Logan McAllister	No. 45 Chris Petefish	No. 46 Tim Widing
No. 48 Fabián Gómez	No. 49 David Kocher	No. 50 Spencer Levin
No. 51 Frankie Capan III	No. 52 Cristobal Del Solar	No. 53 Ricky Castillo
No. 54 Thomas Walsh	No. 55 Roberto Díaz	No. 56 Jeremy Paul
No. 57 Patrick Cover	No. 58 Trent Phillips	No. 59 Quade Cummins
No. 60 Sam Saunders	No. 64 Steven Fisk	No. 70 Brandon Harkins

- Final Stage qualifiers who finished Nos. 76-100 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List earned conditional status – but are without guaranteed starts – for the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season:

No. 76 Brandon Crick	No. 77 Michael Johnson	No. 80 Isaiah Salinda
No. 81 Daniel Summerhays	No. 82 Zach Bauchou	No. 86 Alistair Docherty
No. 87 Kris Ventura	No. 98 William Mouw	

- Medalists (and co-medalists) from each Second Stage site of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry earned Korn Ferry Tour membership and are subject to the second reshuffle of the 2024 season, meaning they earned guaranteed starts for the first eight events of the season
  - Dothan, Alabama (Robert Trent Jones – Highlands/Marshwood) – **Conner Burgess, Mark Goetz**
  - Port St. Lucie, Florida (The Tesoro Club – Palmer) – **KK Limbhasut, Danny Walker**
  - Savannah, Georgia (The Landings Golf & Athletic Club – Deer Creek) – **Bryson Nimmer**
  - Valencia, California (Valencia Country Club) – **Jeffrey Kang**
  - Valdosta, Georgia (Kinderlou Forest Golf Club) – **Aldrich Potgieter**

**Past Q-School Medalists (bolded name denotes player is in Final Stage field)**

<i>Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (2013-22)</i>									
Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total	Margin
2022	Bo Hoag	67	67	71	65	--	--	270 (-14)	1
2021	Zack Fischer	67	67	65	69	--	--	268 (-14)	4
2020	n/a	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--
2019	<b>Curtis Thompson</b>	68	62	69	66	--	--	265 (-21)	None
	<b>Braden Thornberry</b>	65	70	65	65	--	--	265 (-21)	None
2018	<b>Danny Walker</b>	67	65	66	63	--	--	261 (-27)	1
2017	Lee McCoy	65	67	63	65	--	--	260 (-28)	2
2016	Jim Renner	68	69	69	63	--	--	269 (-17)	3
2015	Adam Svensson	64	65	65	72	--	--	266 (-20)	7
2014	Brad Fritsch	72	64	65	65	70	66	402 (-27)	7
2013	Zack Fischer	75	67	66	65	64	64	401 (-31)	2
<i>PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament (1985-2012)</i>									
Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total	Margin
2012	D.H. Lee	68	72	65	64	71	67	407 (-25)	1
2011	Brendon Todd	71	68	69	71	68	68	415 (-17)	1
2010	Billy Mayfair	69	69	68	68	67	70	411 (-18)	1
2009	Troy Merritt	67	69	68	67	70	69	410 (-22)	1
2008	Harrison Frazar	69	64	72	<b>59</b>	69	67	400 (-32)	8
2007	Frank Lickliter II	62	62	68	72	68	71	403 (-29)	4
2006	George McNeill	73	66	67	69	67	67	409 (-23)	5
2005	J.B. Holmes	69	69	68	67	66	69	408 (-24)	3
2004	Brian Davis	72	65	67	69	68	74	415 (-17)	1

2003	Mathias Grönberg	67	69	67	71	70	68	412 (-20)	2
2002	Jeff Brehaut	71	64	72	73	63	73	416 (-16)	1
2001	Pat Perez	67	68	63	70	65	72	405 (-27)	1
2000	Steve Allan	65	69	65	65	68	68	400 (-32)	2
1999	Blaine McCallister	70	69	68	66	61	67	401 (-19)	2
1998	Mike Weir	75	65	66	68	70	64	408 (-24)	3
1997	Scott Verplank	66	64	67	70	69	71	407 (-22)	6
1996	Allen Doyle	72	70	70	72	68	--	352 (-8)	None
	Jimmy Johnston	71	72	68	71	70	--	352 (-8)	None
1995	Carl Paulson	70	65	69	65	69	71	409 (-23)	1
1994	Woody Austin	70	68	72	68	69	67	414 (-18)	4
1993	Ty Armstrong	71	70	68	71	67	68	415 (-17)	None
	Robin Freeman	70	68	68	68	70	71	415 (-17)	None
	Dave Stockton Jr.	68	72	66	68	70	71	415 (-17)	None
1992	Skip Kendall	79	67	69	70	67	71	423 (-9)	None
	Massy Kuramoto	70	71	72	69	71	70	423 (-9)	None
	Perry Moss	71	74	66	70	71	70	423 (-9)	None
	Brett Ogle	70	70	71	72	69	71	423 (-9)	None
	Neale Smith	67	72	71	70	71	72	423 (-9)	None
1991	Mike Standly								
1990	Duffy Waldorf								
1989	David Peoples								
1988	Robin Freeman								
1987	John Huston								
1986	Steve Jones								
1985	Tom Sieckmann								