



Kia Open | Quito, Ecuador | May 4-7, 2023

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Tournament highlights at: <https://bit.ly/3LHu41K>

Tournament tee times: <https://bit.ly/3p1Nx88-TeeTimes>

Godsey spearheads the field at this week's Kia Open

QUITO, Ecuador—Coming off his second runner-up finish of the season to grab the lead in the Totalplay Cup standings, Conner Godsey is definitely the player to chase this week at the Kia Open. The last time he came to the Quito Tennis & Golf Club, almost two years ago, he fired a final-round 65 to force a playoff and then drained an overtime 10-footer for birdie to get the win.

"I remember making the putt in the playoff. That's the biggest memory that I have from it", said the 31-year old Godsey, a native of Alabama who resides in Jacksonville, Florida. "It's great to be back. This place is a lot of fun, playing at elevation, a lot of elevation, the ball goes forever, which makes it tough and fun. I have some good vibes here, so I'm excited to play."

Although he has yet to win during the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica season, Godsey remains a model of consistency. He leads the Tour in total birdies, with 131, 19 more than anybody else. He has the most sub-par rounds, at 20, and with a 69.46 stroke average, his is the lowest among players who have made at least four starts this season. Godsey's Totalplay Cup points total, which improved to 850 with his runner-up finish in Peru, gives him a 151-point lead over New Zealand's Charlie Hillier, who ranks third in the standings and is the next best player competing here this week.

"I feel really good about my game. I have a lot of confidence coming into this week, but I'm just really focusing on trying to get better every day," said the talented lefty who is trying to earn his way back to the Korn Ferry Tour, where he spent the 2022 season after finishing third on the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica points list during the COVID-19 pandemic season of 2020-21.

Making his PGA TOUR Latinoamérica return with Kia as a new title sponsor eyeing a long-time commitment, the Kia Open is the eighth of 12 tournaments on the 2022-23 schedule. Established in 2014 and celebrating its ninth edition this week, this Tour stop is among the players' favorites.

Aside from the local hospitality, the Kia Open is unique because of the altitude factor. Quito is 9,350 feet above sea level, the thin air allowing for a farther ball flight that forces players to adjust. It's especially amusing for the Tour rookies playing here for the very first time.

"I played in Kenya to about 6,000 feet, and in South Africa at around something similar, so I have been exposed to (altitude) a little bit, but this is definitely extreme of what we play. It's so different, and it's such a refreshing new kind of experience. It's cool, really cool," says Scotland's Sandy Scott, who has recorded two top-10s in seven starts to enter the week ranked 16th in the Totalplay Cup standings.

Scheduled to start Thursday morning, the Kia Open features a field of 144 players from 19 countries, including eight Ecuadorian players.

Totalplay Cup Points List through seven of 12 events

Pos.	Player	Points	Points behind
1	Conner Godsey (U.S.)	850	--
2	Cristobal Del Solar (Chile)*	711	139
3	Charlie Hillier (New Zealand)	699	151
4	Chandler Blanchet (U.S.)	676	174
5	Linus Lilliedahl (Sweden)	669	181
6	Matt Ryan (U.S.)	608	242
7	Marcos Montenegro (Argentina)	606	244
8	Jake McCrory (U.S.)	567	283
9	Leandro Marelli (Argentina)	554	296
10	Davis Shore (U.S.)	532	318

**Korn Ferry Tour member Cristóbal Del Solar is the only player inside the top-10 who is not playing here this week*

Did you know the Quito Tennis & Golf Club is set to become the venue that has hosted the second-most PGA TOUR Latinoamérica tournaments? Welcoming the Kia Open for the ninth time since 2014, it ranks solo second, only behind Peru's Los Inkas Golf Club, which hosted the Diners Club Peru Open for a 10th time last week.

No.	Venue	No. of Events	Tournament(s)
1	Los Inkas GC	10	Diners Club Perú Open
2	Quito Tennis & GC	9	KIA Open
3	Córdoba GC	8	Abierto OSDE del Centro
4	Estrella del Mar	6	Estrella del Mar Open, Mexico Open

5	Fuego Maya GC La Reunión	5	Stella Artois Open
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Tournament Fast Facts

Official Name: Kia Open

Hashtag: #KiaOpen

Dates: May 4-7, 2023

Host venue: Quito Tennis & Golf Club, Par-72 (36-36) 7,412 yards

Field: 144 players from 19 countries

Countries and territories represented in the field: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, Finland, France, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Scotland, Sweden, United States and Venezuela

Last champion: Manav Shah (not playing)

Purse: U.S. \$175,000 – Winner's share U.S. \$31,500

Totalplay Cup points: Awarded to the top-55 and ties, with 500 going to the winner

Cut: Top 55 and ties

Key Information

There are two past tournament winners in this week's field, with **Conner Godsey** being the most recent. The 2021 champion, Godsey enters the week ranked first in the Totalplay Cup standings. The other past winner who is back this week is Colombia's **Ricardo Celia**. He claimed the title in 2015.

Past Kia Open champions

Year	Winner	Scores
2014	Tyler McCumber (U.S.)	67-67-71-70—275 (-13)
2015	Ricardo Celia (Colombia)	70-66-70-69—275 (-9)
2016	Nate Lashley (U.S.)	68-67-67-67—269 (-15)
2017	Curtis Yonke (U.S.)	69-68-68-65—270 (-14)
2018	Horacio León (Chile)	69-66-74-67—276 (-8)
2019	Augusto Núñez (Argentina)	68-67-64-67—266 (-22)
2021	Conner Godsey (U.S.)	67-69-70-65—271 (-17)*
2022	Manav Shah (U.S.)	63-69-68-66—266 (-22)

* Won in a playoff

PGA TOUR Latinoamérica tournaments left to play this season

Date	Tournament	Course	Location
May 4-7	Kia Open	Quito Tennis &GC	Quito, Ecuador
Two weeks off			
May 25-28	Colombia Classic	Ruitoque G&CC	Bucaramanga, Colombia
June 1-4	El Rincon Championship	El Rincón de Cajicá	Bogota, Colombia
Two weeks off			

June 22-25	Jalisco Open GDL	Atlas CC	Guadalajara, Mexico
June 29-July 2	PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Championship	PGA Riviera Maya	Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico

2022-23 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Player Benefits

2022-23 Final Totalplay Cup Position	Reward
No. 1	Will receive exempt status on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour
Nos. 2-5	Will receive conditional status on the 2024 Korn Ferry
Nos. 1-5	Exempt into Final Stage of the 2023 PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament
Nos. 6-25	Exempt into the second stage of the 2023 PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament
Nos. 1-60	Status on the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas Latin America Swing