

2024 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
(2nd of 26 events on 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Schedule)

Great Abaco, The Bahamas
 The Abaco Club

January 21-24, 2024
 Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,141

Points: 500 (winner)
 Purse: \$1,000,000 / \$180,00 (winner)

Final-Round Notes – Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Weather: Partly cloudy and windy. High of 77. Wind E/SE at 18-23 mph with gusts up to 32 mph.

Final Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Aldrich Potgieter	72	70	71	65	278 (-10)
T2	Quade Cummins	69	73	73	65	280 (-8)
	Kyle Westmoreland	66	74	68	72	280 (-8)
T4	Austin Smotherman	74	71	70	66	281 (-7)
	Daniel Summerhays	70	73	71	67	281 (-7)

Charting the Champion (stats updated through tournament)

Category	Aldrich Potgieter
Age	19 years, 4 months, 11 days
Korn Ferry Tour Starts – Wins – Top-10s (Career)	4-1-1
Korn Ferry Tour Starts – Wins – Top-10s (2024)	2-1-1
Korn Ferry Tour Starts – Wins – Top-10s (2023)	2-0-0
Starts – Wins – Top-10s at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club	Tournament Debut

Aldrich Potgieter wins The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, becomes youngest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history

GREAT ABACO, The Bahamas – Three days after a 20-year-old amateur won on the PGA TOUR, a 19-year-old professional from South Africa became the youngest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history, as Aldrich Potgieter (pronounced ALL-drick POT-gee tur) captured a two-stroke victory at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club.

At 19 years, 4 months, 11 days of age, Potgieter usurps Jason Day as the youngest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history, as Day previously won the 2007 Legend Financial Group Classic at 19 years, 7 months, 26 days of age. Potgieter is also the youngest winner on either the Korn Ferry Tour or PGA TOUR since Ralph Guldahl’s victory at the 1931 Santa Monica Open at the age of 19 years, 2 months, 3 days.

Additionally, Potgieter is the fourth teenager to win on the Korn Ferry Tour, joining Day, Sungjae Im, and Akshay Bhatia. The previous three are all PGA TOUR winners, with Day winning 13 TOUR titles, Im winning two TOUR events, and Bhatia capturing his first TOUR title at the 2023 Barracuda Championship while playing on Special Temporary Membership.

Youngest Winners in Korn Ferry Tour History

Player	Age	Tournament
<i>Aldrich Potgieter</i>	<i>19 years, 4 months, 11 days</i>	<i>2024 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic</i>
Jason Day	19 years, 7 months, 26 days	2007 Legend Financial Group Classic
Sungjae Im	19 years, 9 months, 17 days	2018 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic
Akshay Bhatia	19 years, 11 months, 19 days	2022 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic
Si Woo Kim	20 years, 21 days	2015 Stonebrae Classic

“I was just trying to make the cut... improve on the status. I didn’t expect this today,” Potgieter said. “I was looking at the leaderboard a couple times and just trying to move up, move up slowly and give myself some chances on the putting green. I felt really comfortable, gave myself those opportunities and holed some of them.

“We saw Nick Dunlap won last week, and that was a reminder that it can be done,” Potgieter said of becoming the youngest winner on either the PGA TOUR or Korn Ferry Tour since 1931. “I’m just happy to be playing here and to get the opportunity to play here. To make history, that’s just another bonus on top of the win.”

Potgieter began the final round at 3-under par and five strokes behind 54-hole leader Kyle Westmoreland.

After birdies on three of the first four holes, Potgieter bounced back from a bogey at the par-4 seventh with an eagle at the par-5 eighth. A three-putt bogey at the par-3 10th would be Potgieter’s only stumble on the back nine, and he countered it with birdies at the par-4 12th and par-5 14th.

Having pulled even with Quade Cummins, the clubhouse leader at 8-under par who could only watch the leaderboard after he carded a 7-under 65 for the low round of the tournament, Potgieter birdied the par-4 16th for the outright lead. Potgieter closed out the victory and a final-round 7-under 65 with a birdie at the par-5 18th.

Windy conditions made scoring difficult for much of the week, as Potgieter’s winning total of 10-under 278 marked the second-highest winning score in the seven iterations of the event. Only Rafael Campos’ 7-under 281 en route to victory in 2019 was a higher winning total at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club.

Potgieter turned professional last summer following a solo-64th finish at the 2023 U.S. Open. His amateur career included a breakthrough victory at the 2022 Amateur Championship, where, roughly three months before his 18th birthday, he became the second-youngest winner in the history of the storied event.

“I was playing really good golf from a young age, so I thought, from my view, college was like an extra four years of preparing to becoming professional,” Potgieter said. “I know they have great opportunities, great teams behind them, and you can see a lot of the players are coming from college teams are doing really good. That was an option, but I wanted to get the experience done and just make sure my game is good enough, and just grind it out... learn stuff these guys are going to have to learn now coming out of college.

“After winning (The Amateur), I had to make that decision, and I thought turning pro was a good one.”

Ironically, Potgieter made his professional debut at the Korn Ferry Tour's Compliance Solutions Championship, finishing T35 as a sponsor exemption a week after his final start as an amateur at the U.S. Open. A week later, Potgieter made his first PGA TOUR start as a professional at the Rocket Mortgage Classic, which he played via a sponsor exemption. Three weeks later, Potgieter Monday qualified for the Korn Ferry Tour's NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank.

Potgieter's made cut at the U.S. Open also granted him an exemption to Second Stage of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry. Playing at the Kinderlou Forest Golf Club site in Valdosta, Georgia, Potgieter won by four strokes, earning him guaranteed starts for the first eight events of the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season.

Although Potgieter missed his first opportunity at a PGA TOUR card at Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry (he finished T81, and only the top five and ties earned TOUR membership), it may not be long before he earns a promotion to golf's biggest stage.

"Now it's just adapting to playing every week," Potgieter said, before noting what he will focus will on for the remainder of 2024 as a fully exempt member. "Just keeping the mind straight and moving forward every week, and just forgetting the bad stuff, and trying to move forward every day."

Final-Round Notes

- Three players posted top-10s in both of the season-opening events in The Bahamas: **Kyle Westmoreland** (T2/The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic; 5th/The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic), **Quade Cummins** (T2/The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic; T7/The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic), and **Noah Goodwin** (T6/The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic; T7/The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic)
- **Aldrich Potgieter** (1st/-10) and **Quade Cummins** (T2/-8) share the low round of the final round and the tournament with matching 7-under 65s Wednesday
 - Cummins posts his fifth top-10 in his 50th career start on the Korn Ferry Tour, and records his career-high finish on Tour (previous: T4/2022 Huntsville Championship)
- **Kyle Westmoreland** (T2/-8), who carried a two-stroke lead into the final round, posts a career-high finish in his 38th career start on the Korn Ferry Tour (previous: 5th/2024 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic; 5th/2023 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH)
- **Daniel Summerhays** (T4/-7) posts his third top-10 in his last six Korn Ferry Tour starts; he missed the cut in his only two previous appearances at this event (2019, 2023)
- **Noah Goodwin** (T6/-6) records a second consecutive top-10; he only recorded one top-10 in 23 starts as a Korn Ferry Tour rookie last season (T4/2023 Compliance Solutions Championship)
- **Michael Johnson** (T6/-6) posts his first top-10 in a Korn Ferry Tour event since March 2019 (T6/Chitimacha Louisiana Open), and his first top-10 in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play since June 2021 (4th/L&J Golf Championship at Jennings Mill Country Club/Forme Tour)
- **Sam Bennett** (T9/-5), winner of the 2022 U.S. Amateur and low amateur at the 2023 Masters Tournament, records his first top-10 in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play in his Korn Ferry Tour debut
- **John VanDerLaan** (T9/-5), who has top 75 finishes on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List each of the last three seasons, posts his seventh top-25 in eight career starts in The Bahamas on Tour
 - VanDerLaan also records his earliest top-10 in a Korn Ferry Tour season (previous: fourth event of 2020-21 season, T6/2020 Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard)