

**Visit Knoxville Open**  
**(11th of 25 events on 2026 Korn Ferry Tour Schedule)**  
[Tournament Media Site](#)

Knoxville, Tennessee  
 Holston Hills Country Club

May 21-24, 2026  
 Par/Yards: 71 / 7,267

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

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, May 21, 2026**

*Preferred lies were in effect for the first round*

**Weather:** Partly Cloudy with morning showers. High of 88. Wind W/SW 5-10 mph, gusts of 15 mph

**Leaderboard**

Pos.	Player	Total
T1	Austin Hitt	62 (-9)
	Nelson Ledesma	62 (-9)
T3	Drew Nesbitt	63 (-8)
	Hunter Wolcott	63 (-8)
T5	Doc Redman	64 (-7)
	Hayden Buckley	64 (-7)
	Max Schliesing	64 (-7)

**Charting the Co-leaders (stats entering week)**

Category	Austin Hitt	Nelson Ledesma
Age	28	35
2026 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 59	--
Starts – Wins – Top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour in 2026	10-0-0	2-0-0
Starts – Wins – Top-10s in Korn Ferry Tour Career	63-0-4	151-2-13
Starts – Wins – Top-10s at Visit Knoxville Open	2-0-0	5-0-1

**Austin Hitt (T1/-9)**

- Opens with a bogey-free 9-under 62 and holds the third 18-hole lead/co-lead of his Korn Ferry Tour career in what is his 64th start (previous: 1st/2024 Price Cutter Charity Championship/finished T44, T1/2025 The Blue Championship/finished T31)
- Owns three top-25 finishes in 10 starts on Tour this season (best finish: T11/The Panama Championship)
- Finished No. 30 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List off the strength of nine top-25 finishes and a runner-up at the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation, securing full status for the 2026 Korn Ferry Tour Season (top 75 from Points List)
- Finished No. 48 on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie, earning fully exempt status for the 2025 season (top 75 from Points List)
- Missed the cut in two previous starts at the Visit Knoxville Open (2024, 2025)
- Played two seasons on PGA TOUR Canada (2021, 2022) and two seasons on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica (2022, 2023), earning Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time with a No. 4 finish on the 2023 Order of Merit
- Played five seasons at University of North Carolina (2016-21), where he posted a 72.20 career scoring average and earned All-Atlantic Coast Conference selections in 2019 and 2021

**Nelson Ledesma (T1/-9)**

- Two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner makes seven birdies (Nos. 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 18) and an eagle (No. 5) en route to a bogey-free 9-under 62

- Holds sixth 18-hole lead/co-lead of his Korn Ferry Tour career and first since the 2025 Simons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation (finished T15)
- Began this season with conditional membership following a No. 90 finish on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List (finishers Nos. 76 – 100)
- Earned his first Korn Ferry Tour title as a rookie at the 2018 LECOM Health Challenge en route to a No. 33 finish in the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour standings
- Finished No. 8 on the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Points List to earn PGA TOUR membership for the first time
- Recorded top 75 finishes on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List two of the last four seasons (No. 60 in 2024, No. 53 in 2022)
- Owns two made cuts in five previous starts at the Visit Knoxville Open, including a top-10 (T10/2023)
- Played six consecutive seasons on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica (2012-17) and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership with a No. 5 finish on the 2017 Order of Merit

#### **Additional Notes**

- **Drew Nesbitt** (T3/-8), who earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2026 season with a No. 8 finish on the 2025 PGA TOUR Americas Points List, posts a career-low 8-under 63 (previous low: 66/twice); holds his best first-round position on Tour in what is his 11th start (previous 18-hole high position: T10/2026 Club Car Championship/finished T65)
- Sponsor Exemption and conditional member **Hunter Wolcott** (T3/-8), who played five seasons at the University of Tennessee (2016-22), cards the lowest round of his Korn Ferry Tour career with a bogey-free 8-under 63 (previous best: 67/2026 Astara Chile Classic/R1)
- Conditional member **Max Schliesing** (T5/-7) opens with a bogey-free 7-under 64 in his Korn Ferry Tour debut; stands No. 69 on the 2026 PGA TOUR Americas Points List through three starts this season
- Knoxville, Tennessee native **Davis Shore** (T8/-6) holds his best 18-hole position at the Visit Knoxville Open in his third attempt (previous event 18-hole high position: T56/2025/MC)
- **Ian Holt** (T97/-1), who stands No. 1 on the 2026 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, makes his second hole-in-one of the 2026 season with a pitching wedge from 135 yards on the par-3 eighth (previous: Astara Chile Classic/Prince of Wales Country Club/No. 15/R2)