

Production Transcript for **26INTCUTKF - KFT CHAMPIONSHIP**

[00:00:34.830]>>The Korn Ferry Tour finals and live opening round coverage of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by Virginia's Richmond Region.

[00:00:45.010]>>New home here in 2026. Decided to check it out from downtown Richmond. We go to the Federal Club in Glen Allen, Virginia.

[00:00:54.250]>>The player understanding.

[00:00:56.790]>>Change of golf course does not change the hopes of this final event. Of course we have given out cards to this point. 13 players officially tore down, meaning 7 cards left up for grabs. 6 of those cards announced this week. Players getting the news that they.

[00:01:13.560]>>Hit the points mark and you look at the weather here expecting really nice weather the first three days. Some iffy weather come Sunday. Not gonna worry about that right now. 83 degrees, some ideal scoring since great Browns posted to this point as we take a look here, James, at this new course, the federal flow. Yes, Shane, past 71, only just a tad over 7000.

[00:01:34.830]>>Yards, distance isn't gonna be a problem for these guys this week. Beautiful bent grass greens, even the fairways are a form of bent, so you're not gonna get a lot of roll-out as we play lift clean in place in this opening round. It's just a very beautiful property and the closing three holes have to hit some really decent shots coming down the stretch for these guys battling for a PGA Tour card.

[00:01:58.550]>>Gilligan here at the 10.

[00:02:07.820]>>Oh this looks very good, very good, very good, really good. There you go, Ian Gilligan, the 23-year-old from Florida, Big Bird at the 10th, so that makes up for the double at 4.

[00:02:21.860]>>What a way to get under par in this opening round.

[00:02:27.290]>>Go up to the 18th, give you a look at this closing par 4. Ishikawa an opportunity to roll this in.

[00:02:34.150]>>That'll work in style for Ishikawa.

[00:02:38.810]>>Winning with authority.

[00:02:41.760]>>But apart from that range.

[00:02:46.000]>>We'll jump up to the 17th. Barend Botha, the man that last year in the Korn Ferry Tour championship entered Sunday with an opportunity to win and get the PGA Tour card, came up just short.

[00:03:02.860]>>Nesbitt, nice opening round. Drew Nesbitt, the last player in terms of the points list that doesn't necessarily need to win to get that PGA Tour card, but to your point earlier, James, kind of finished in the top two.

[00:03:16.220]>>Really, really nice start for Nesbitt.

[00:03:19.500]>>Back to 17 and Botha to take the outright lead.

[00:03:26.120]>>Yeah, he is feeling it right now, tearing up this back nine here at the Federal Club. Now 5 under on this back nine.

[00:03:34.500]>>Dangerous man.

[00:03:40.930]>>Back at the 15, Butler pitch shot with those sprinkler heads in the way for John Marshall Butler. So he can go up top, he does. There we go. Here we go. I'm working with it.

[00:03:52.420]>>Great shot. OK, gets it back on track here.

[00:03:57.610]>>Decided to clip it good with how firm these greens are trending.

[00:04:02.130]>>Go up to 16, the par 5, James Nicholas.

[00:04:05.820]>>I think golf fans around the world rooting for Nicholas to

[00:04:09.840]>>Kind of finish off a season earlier this year was cruising to a PGA Tour card and then had an unfortunate injury over in Europe and since then it's just not been the same player.

[00:04:21.580]>>Nicholas now to tie both at 6 under par. A man that qualified for the U.S. Open and The Open Championship through qualifying this year. Nice birdie there at the par 5. He's lighting up this back nine as well.

[00:04:37.010]>>Van Arragon here at the 16th awkward spot, but these guys are so good out of the bunkers.

[00:04:43.290]>>Another one drops. Seen a lot of eagles here at 16 today. Van Arragon.

[00:04:57.810]>>Up at 18, Nicholas, I mean giving it a ton of room here.

[00:05:06.560]>>They read it perfectly. Still wasn't enough, yeah. And they had to hit it 4 ft, that putt. That shows once again, gets a little kick right and, but he'll be happy with that. Great opening round. I mean for a guy that understands what's at stake this week, understanding what he needs to do, basically gotta finish in the top 3 of the leaderboard to have any chance at all of getting that PGA Tour card.

[00:05:29.930]>>Check in on Blades Brown here at the 14th, just on the outside in terms of officially being tour bound.

[00:05:37.670]>>Good role there. He's just had a really solid season. It's Blades Brown. He's been all over the place, played on the PGA Tour and the Korn Ferry Tour, doing a little of what we saw a week ago, slow start, picking it up on this back nine.

[00:05:59.150]>>Really nice.

[00:06:01.810]>>Yeah.

[00:06:07.020]>>Now hit for Birdie.

[00:06:10.660]>>Not much to this.

[00:06:13.340]>>Takes advantage.

[00:06:18.230]>>Starting to settle things now, look at that, projected 20th.

[00:06:25.780]>>The aircraft, not the 18.

[00:06:28.180]>>Everyone's reading this correctly.

[00:06:32.660]>>Yep, another one. That is the spot, James, you nailed it. You want the 30 footer at 18.

[00:06:40.510]>>How about that finish? Yeah, you're at 26 on the points list projected. Eagle at 16 holds a long bunker shot.

[00:06:49.360]>>Had an opportunity at 17, but scrap that, you make a long one at the last. What a open.

[00:06:58.200]>>Go back to the 16th, be the lengthy bunker shot for Dossey.

[00:07:04.340]>>That sounded strange, weird. What was that?

[00:07:09.340]>>Now Dossey, this is 4th.

[00:07:14.150]>>Outside of the situation, this is a straightforward bunker shot. You make birdie, come on, you can't make birdie like that.

[00:07:22.460]>>Chunks the 1st, makes the 2nd.

[00:07:25.200]>>I'm done. I'll see you at 17 tee.

[00:07:32.510]>>And Ian Holt playing alongside Steelman and Scott.

[00:07:37.830]>>Yeah, rolling up the board. Kind of a strange season in the sense that Ian Holt basically locked up his card in the 1st 3 events, then has to continue to play and push and hadn't seen much of him in terms of being atop the leaderboard. Nice to see him playing this solid.

[00:07:58.820]>>No problem.

[00:08:02.110]>>Bob.

[00:08:04.040]>>Better. I mean, a little clicky. You could hear it in contact, but still an opportunity.

[00:08:12.120]>>Now Holt.

[00:08:16.830]>>Yeah, pulls that in.

[00:08:18.890]>>he got away with that one after seeing Steelman go first and.

[00:08:23.830]>>Sneaks in the right side, so Holt moves into a tie for the lead.

[00:08:30.410]>>6 under par

[00:08:33.780]>>Cole Sherwood

[00:08:37.110]>>Sure we're Tour bound, headed to the show.

[00:08:41.100]>>That's a good looking putt. Yep.

[00:08:46.590]>>Talented young man, Shane.

[00:09:02.780]>>Talk about a repeatable move, that man right there, Ian Holt, especially with that club in hand, we talked about him being leading greens in regulation last year, just so good.

[00:09:15.650]>>Holt with another opportunity.

[00:09:18.740]>>It's 7 under

[00:09:20.760]>>For this opening round.

[00:09:24.790]>>Hey, seeing it great on these greens, been rolling it as good as anybody on this Thursday.

[00:09:31.300]>>And Holt looking for win number 3 and some late starts. Got to change your holiday plans if you're Ian Holt and you go on to win this thing.

[00:09:40.960]>>Holt for another birdie. Looks like he's putting in a painting.

[00:09:48.400]>>Get it there, he wanted more roll. It's a couple of putts he could have got to drop here in the final few holes. Just got it to the hole.

[00:09:58.890]>>Still

[00:10:00.560]>>7 under 64 opening.

[00:10:03.820]>>His campaign to getting that 3rd win and the 3 win promotion and he's doing exactly what he needs to do, what a round.

[00:10:12.200]>>Steelman

[00:10:13.640]>>Going to shoot 4 under, gonna give himself an opportunity, scary dude to have near the top of the board and.

[00:10:19.880]>>Especially when you brought your minus game and you're still just 3 off the lead, but this Thursday belongs to Ian Holt and off to the best start we have seen in years to kick off the campaign here in 2026, trying to start and finish the year.

[00:10:35.860]>>In style, Ian Holt, 64.

[00:10:40.140]>>And that putter going

[00:10:42.340]>>A lot of fun here for the first time at the Federal Club here in Glen Allen, Virginia, and shout out to the Federal Club. What a beautiful facility, only 35 guys under par, Shane, that is what we want on a perfect day, and we've seen a lot of good golf, but let's go, I think we've got more to come, Shane, this is gonna be a fantastic week.

[00:11:09.000]>>Live 2nd round coverage of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by Virginia's Richmond Region. New spot this year for the Korn Ferry Tour Championship. And in the words of the late great Mike Ditka, before you can win, you have to believe that you are worthy. And how telling is that quote this week, believing you are worthy of this moment, believing that your biggest goal isn't just achievable, it's available. And if you're in the field this week for the first time, James, the opportunity.

[00:11:36.970]>>To when an advance is available to all 59 players in the field. Yep, love that change, going from 75 players down to 60. Only 59 players in the field because Ben Kohles is over on the FedExCup Fall, trying to earn his PGA Tour card that way, so another position up for grabs for all those guys outside the top 20 playing the Tour championships this week. Weather is solid, expecting some showers and storms. Is that massive?

[00:12:05.750]>>Weather takes over the East Coast come the weekend, but right now very playable and scorable.

[00:12:25.870]>>You.

[00:12:28.720]>>Morrison limited starts this season after he turned professional.

[00:12:33.750]>>Off to a ridiculous start, James is a pro.

[00:12:38.220]>>Oh this'll help right here. It should be a kick in to get to 8 under par, 2 back.

[00:12:46.090]>>It's just a good story with Ian Holt. He's had Korn Ferry Tour status before, lost it, and to get to where he is now, comfortably making the PGA Tour.

[00:12:56.180]>>So that left for 6 birdies in a row to finish the front 9 for Holt.

[00:13:03.280]>>Back over to the 9th and Mel, Barend Botha gonna try the old school approach to making a birdie.

[00:13:11.890]>>How about that opening 9 holes for both of them.

[00:13:15.430]>>Make a bogey on the week.

[00:13:17.810]>>And after a front 9, 35 a day ago, 30 on his back nine yesterday, 31 on the front nine today.

[00:13:28.360]>>Great approach of the short par 3 today, birdie there, yeah, James, you mentioned the, the swing and the field for a guy that's 6'9. A lot of the tall guys, you know, they'll kind of dip down into the ball. His is really smooth. Yeah, it doesn't look like he's 6'9, that's for sure, um, which is always good and handhold easy birdie at the 9th.

[00:13:47.400]>>Yeah

[00:13:48.940]>>Back here at the 14th, par 3 for Blades Brown.

[00:13:54.920]>>Yeah, I heard you get a problem

[00:13:58.380]>>Considerable amount downhill, this 189 yard par 3.

[00:14:04.530]>>That is pretty from Brown. Yeah

[00:14:12.610]>>You know, Dossey trying to follow blades.

[00:14:19.170]>>Trying to do better than Blades.

[00:14:21.810]>>That's 2 fairly handy shots here to the par 3.

[00:14:27.420]>>Go up to 14. A couple of really short birdie putts upcoming. Dossey after the bogey at 13.

[00:14:34.760]>>Yeah, good role there, you knew it.

[00:14:48.850]>>Plate

[00:14:50.640]>>5 par 3s around the federal club. He's birded most of them in 2 rounds, another 2 back-to-back 2s here at the 14th.

[00:15:00.560]>>I.

[00:15:11.510]>>So

[00:15:16.230]>>Beauty there from Brown right over the top of it. One of the rounds of the day going.

[00:15:25.250]>>Brown for another birdie right in the middle and James, if you pick apart any part of Blades Brown's game, it's on the greens, the putter looking.

[00:15:33.940]>>Idyllic this week

[00:15:36.360]>>Blades Brown, chance to tie the lead straight uphill here.

[00:15:42.950]>>What an up-and-down.

[00:15:45.590]>>Awkward stance gripping down to the steal.

[00:15:49.270]>>That is at a creative up-and-down there for 3 in a row.

[00:15:54.860]>>Here's Young at the 18th. Excellent approach and a good way to finish.

[00:16:02.620]>>Oh

[00:16:04.310]>>Look at that, projection. 19th, he's in tee for 10th.

[00:16:11.220]>>He would know it in his bones that this is where I need to stay if it was to settle right here on Sunday to get to the PGA Tour. Yeah, Young came into the week 18th on the points list, probability wise was at 75%, now Brown at 17%.

[00:16:28.180]>>Go

[00:16:29.640]>>166, up on a shelf, here we go, get on that side of it, nope. I hate to say it, Shane, but it would have been great for yesterday. That would have been awesome yesterday.

[00:16:44.420]>>Cheers Brown

[00:16:48.170]>>B.

[00:16:51.570]>>Kidd, outright leader.

[00:16:54.680]>>Here in Virginia, 4 straight and he is putting together one of the better rounds of his season.

[00:17:08.900]>>That's been hooping it at the 13th.

[00:17:13.010]>>Leaning on a good short game.

[00:17:20.900]>>Now Hitt at 16

[00:17:23.250]>>Just clean it up. Good birdie after that. Really nice approach from 250, snuck over the back.

[00:17:33.620]>>tee

[00:17:40.060]>>Now Hitt.

[00:17:42.560]>>Can he get it over on that right side? Sure he can. Oh yes.

[00:17:47.580]>>It's uh, it doesn't get easy from there, that's gonna be a slider from left to right, but on the same section.

[00:17:53.380]>>Go up to 18. Perfect tee shot for Brown, just 123 left.

[00:18:00.820]>>Little bit of a shelf to the left of it you can use. I mean this guy is on fire right now.

[00:18:08.000]>>Brown an opportunity to kick that in, shoot 10 under on this Friday.

[00:18:16.900]>>Now Hitt at 17, putting great in this 2nd round. Top 3 in the field, dripping it, yes.

[00:18:27.720]>>6th birdie on this back nine.

[00:18:31.350]>>He's having a lot of fun. He's been enjoying the week. It's not easy to do that when you're floating around that top 20 position, but Hitt.

[00:18:39.460]>>All smiles on this Friday and Brown.

[00:18:43.130]>>This to finish the day atop this leaderboard as of now, Birdie at the last and for Blades Brown got it going with that eagle at 9, made eagle at 10, and birdie's at 14, 15, 16, 17, and the tap in there at 18.

[00:19:02.470]>>He was hit at 18

[00:19:05.020]>>Just green light from here, you can see that follow follow through trying to fashion a left or right spinner. Exactly like that, what a shot.

[00:19:17.560]>>In

[00:19:19.210]>>It

[00:19:23.870]>>is to shoot 28 on the back nine.

[00:19:27.370]>>That is just a beautiful round of golf from Austin Hitt.

[00:19:32.680]>>Blades Brown and Austin Hitt, both posting crazy low numbers today. He's just kind of grinning. It's not a smile, it's sheepish, but.

[00:19:42.790]>>Understated

[00:19:45.500]>>Woo

[00:19:47.130]>>You know, Holt

[00:19:54.480]>>I'm gonna leave this in there and he does. What a shot.

[00:19:58.580]>>Best of the day at 17.

[00:20:01.590]>>So

[00:20:04.050]>>Now Botha

[00:20:08.810]>>Get back in.

[00:20:10.410]>>A good line if it's enough. It is really nice from Botha. So Holt and Botha all pars on the back nine, both trying to change it here at the 17th. Excellent approach shots. I gotta see it though. He and Holt just tap it in 7 inches away officially with birdie here gonna break that par streak for Holt.

[00:20:34.730]>>More importantly, it gets him within one of Blades Brown.

[00:20:47.100]>>Yeah.

[00:20:49.110]>>Saying

[00:20:50.880]>>Austin Hitt, Blades Brown and now Barend Botha, all of them pouring that exact putt in the middle there. Breaks that runner pars, needed it.

[00:21:04.500]>>Now old

[00:21:11.890]>>Oh

[00:21:14.690]>>Red hot on that front nine, cooled off on the back. Highlight, of course, that tee shot of the 17th for Holt, the focus, win and win only, trying to pick up a 3rd victory here in 2026, headed to the PGA Tour no matter what happens over the course of the next two rounds.

[00:21:40.490]>>Both of

[00:21:42.350]>>Act 9, a whole lot of pars did his work on the front as well, matching 65s.

[00:21:53.190]>>So they are both an opportunity.

[00:21:55.620]>>Head into the weekend you see right now projected 25th, James talked about needing a 2nd place solo finish, and he is right near that position right now. Yuta leapfrogging Cole Hammer, so they have switched spots in terms of the points coming into the week. Yeah, both Yuta and Cole Hammer, they fought back today in this second round, putting himself in a position to be right there on the bubble. You got Barend Botha didn't quite have it going on the back nine but only missed.

[00:22:20.020]>>One fairway today, I think if he keeps having 65 to finish out the week, he should secure his PGA Tour card, but no, a whole host. I've got a sneaking suspicion we're gonna play the ball down tomorrow in the 3rd round, and I think we're gonna see the federal club show its teeth.

[00:22:43.260]>>Live 3rd round coverage of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by Virginia's Richmond Region.

[00:22:51.320]>>New golf course, new venue this week as we left French Lick after a couple of years here at the Federal Club and a great host. Golf course is, I'd say, perfectly demanding, can push in spots, obviously some birdie holes as you head home, including the 16th, the par 5 you see right there.

[00:23:09.560]>>Ideal scoring conditions once again as we await what Sunday will look like. The weather rolling in, it's been a part of

[00:23:15.990]>>Everywhere on the East Coast and of course the Florida Gulf of Mexico region, fans are out. It is a golf heavy area here in Richmond, had great championships.

[00:23:25.380]>>Decade after decade, some incredible Champions.

[00:23:29.500]>>Take us through some of the highlights, James, and we focused on Juice so much in these finals because he's been near the top of the leaderboard so much in these finals. Well, he's just a, a marksman from 126 here. The strength of his game, deadly from that distance as well.

[00:23:45.070]>>See with a great opportunity for birdie straight uphill. Yeah, cool little par 3 that 11th today, just a wedge. Now Barend Botha, a player who made a push last season in his Korn Ferry Tour finals, needed a win to get a PGA Tour card, finished 2nd at the Korn Ferry Tour championship. If he finishes 2nd this week, he will jump into the top 20 position, and Barend Botha, a player who made a push last season in his Korn Ferry Tour finals,

needed a win to get a PGA Tour card, finished 2nd at the Korn Ferry Tour championship. If he finishes 2nd this week, he will jump into the top 20 position, and Barend Botha been solid 65, 65 out of the gate. But nobody, James, been as hot as this guy the last day and a half. Yeah, dangerous when he can get this club to work, just so consistent off a tee to green and

[00:24:14.320]>>Just got that pedigree, so comfortable in an interview and looking comfortable on the course right now. And we talk a lot about Blades Brown, just 19 years old, turned pro as a 17-year-old, the ball strike and the drive in the distance, that's all PGA Tour level. The putter at times can get a bit balky, but this week he has been rolling it great.

[00:24:36.270]>>Not much to this part.

[00:24:38.240]>>Be aggressive

[00:24:40.660]>>There you go, right in the middle. So he ties the lead and hit at 16 under par and

[00:24:45.850]>>Blades basically just had to stay upright this week to get that PGA Tour card, but how about finishing in style, potentially a win here? That would be the first of his Korn Ferry Tour career.

[00:24:59.830]>>3rd shot for Holt. Hit a couple of really juicy iron shots late on Friday.

[00:25:06.450]>>Little like that. Nice recovery.

[00:25:15.570]>>We'll go back over to the 9th and hold.

[00:25:18.610]>>This is pretty straightforward. It might just be a little left or right. I wouldn't give it any more than the edge though. I think it's going to straighten up at the hole.

[00:25:27.790]>>That's just a professional birdie right there for me and Holt. Left off the tee at the park path at a tree, was in the hay, chopped it out. Great approach, and maybe that's the one that will get him going, looking for that third win, James.

[00:25:44.110]>>Back to 9.

[00:25:46.300]>>A couple feet away

[00:25:48.730]>>Yeah, needed to see a, a shortish one go, he's missed 2 in the last 4 holes.

[00:25:55.570]>>About 13 birdies his last 18 holes played.

[00:26:04.570]>>Tap in here at the 9th for Blades Brown and just a very solid 9 holes.

[00:26:14.660]>>Both, uh, this for Eagle at the 10th. Both of one of those players gotta finish solo 2nd this week as he sits solo 3rd right now and on a great line if he gets there.

[00:26:54.900]>>It pushed it back their aggressive swing.

[00:26:57.630]>>That this, I mean calling that to sit in the air because there's a big low area over the back of the green, a very awkward little chip shot, so safe now though for hit though.

[00:27:10.990]>>Go back to 11, hit with an opportunity to bounce right back.

[00:27:15.460]>>On a great line right in the middle. How about that bounce back, made a mess of the 10th and.

[00:27:22.250]>>We're getting that up-and-down for bogey. course that in the middle and the smile comes out. There he is.

[00:27:30.090]>>Up ahead, both

[00:27:32.820]>>This is just a little awkward, yeah, in between yardage here, a little closer than you would like.

[00:27:38.890]>>You get a ton of spin on it. Yeah, I pulled it off.

[00:27:47.670]>>Saturday stress for Barend Botha birdie opportunity and he needs one to go. So Botha trying to make that push helped by the miss up ahead from Sherwood at the 17th, but he's gonna have to pick up one more.

[00:28:04.120]>>We'll go back to the tee at the 17. 177, but to carry it online with the flag is 173. You've got to trust that you can hit this past the hole. It will come back. Oh my goodness, that's about as bad a shot as you will see from a pro golfer, and he has made some real iffy swings, James, and on his back nine.

[00:28:32.330]>>Around now for his par.

[00:28:40.130]>>Ad on in and yet either so.

[00:28:43.300]>>Probably gonna have 6 7 ft to say bogey.

[00:28:51.290]>>Hitting now for his par.

[00:28:58.590]>>Yeah, in that group at 12 under right now, there's 7 guys just sitting there watching this unfold and thinking, OK guys, what you, we're gonna be 3 back, possibly, and and it's not like James the wind picked up and it's blowing 30, these guys are just making iffy golf swings.

[00:29:17.790]>>Just late in the day

[00:29:20.300]>>This stretch of the last 6 holes here at the federal club really tests,

[00:29:25.970]>>What are facets of your game.

[00:29:35.410]>>OK. 4th, Brown.

[00:29:39.430]>>So a short miss at 16 for Birdie. They're at 17.

[00:29:47.560]>>So we'll have to hold here at the 18. He's got 147 pin all the way back on that right hand side today, do not even look at that, winds off the right, got it in this left.

[00:30:03.740]>>Just to, you know, you're looking down elevated in the fairway, this daunting flag, and that's where we've seen the majority of guys.

[00:30:24.230]>>Pretty well done right there. Yeah, it's a solid swing.

[00:30:30.550]>>OK

[00:30:36.000]>>Yeah

[00:30:44.240]>>Shuffle. Beautiful. That was aggressive to a conservative target.

[00:30:50.680]>>Something that

[00:30:51.620]>>Woods would always say that he was locked in on doing and well executed from Blades.

[00:31:03.090]>>So let's go out to Holt for his birdie pot.

[00:31:09.820]>>A nice line

[00:31:12.590]>>Good positive putt

[00:31:27.510]>>Even par for Holt today, never got anything going. 2 over early in the round that just couldn't quite.

[00:31:35.060]>>Find the right recipe, see what he can do tomorrow.

[00:31:45.350]>>Now Brown

[00:31:49.880]>>It's something these guys aren't seeing, you got a read off Holt there.

[00:31:55.060]>>A bit too much pace.

[00:32:02.690]>>Now Hitt

[00:32:07.960]>>Great line

[00:32:10.040]>>Just not high enough, so it.

[00:32:15.380]>>And I have to find something on the range this afternoon as he prepares for tomorrow. Shot 28 in this back nine yesterday.

[00:32:29.200]>>Blades to stay one clear.

[00:32:32.660]>>The two-putt and the Blades, it was a solid 5 just.

[00:32:37.350]>>Quite get it going around the greens, and a lot of his birdies early in his round and

[00:32:44.860]>>It'll be an interesting evening and tomorrow for Blades Brown, of course, not necessarily needing anything special to get that PGA Tour card, but

[00:32:52.860]>>Love to find himself in the fight late for Austin Hitt.

[00:32:57.140]>>Gonna be a trip to the range, work on that golf swing. Still smiling, still happy, still an opportunity for Austin Hitt.

[00:33:04.620]>>The Blades 68, it was, it was almost a 65 that was turned into a 68. He had plenty of opportunities.

[00:33:11.960]>>You've got Austin here, still laughing, still trying to make it as comfortable as possible, knowing the biggest day of his golfing career comes up tomorrow in the final

round. For Blades tomorrow, gonna try to lean on that great golf swing in the short game to produce that victory that we've been waiting for from the 19 year old. This is what we wanted, Shane, going into the final round of the season, so many different stories, plenty of scenarios, I cannot wait to get stuck in tomorrow.

[00:33:50.650]>>And live final round coverage of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by Virginia's Richmond Region.

[00:33:57.540]>>When you think about all that goes into a Korn Ferry Tour season, start in the Bahamas, travel all around the world, and into a new golf course this season. You think about the nerves and the dreams trying to perfect the golf swing, and then the last 18 holes of your season, Mother Nature shows up, throw an added wrinkle into all that's happening.

[00:34:19.490]>>The mindset, the mentality.

[00:34:22.290]>>And the physicality of this year.

[00:34:25.090]>>Of course PGA Tour cards on offer and

[00:34:28.090]>>You've got a lot of names battling out for those last 3 and 4 spots.

[00:34:36.390]>>Back here at the 8th final group, Brown hitting Botha.

[00:34:44.770]>>James, Austin Hitt got into.

[00:34:47.060]>>Some real issues with the swing second half of yesterday. It's all over the place with the iron swing even off the tee.

[00:34:57.970]>>Now hit for Birdie.

[00:35:02.300]>>And there you go. Austin Hitt outright leader now unclear of Blades Brown and

[00:35:08.720]>>The attitude this week from Austin Hitt a man that entered the week outside the top 20 has been great, been very positive on the golf course, and right now in nasty conditions, hit taking advantage, one clear.

[00:35:23.040]>>Austin Hitt

[00:35:26.280]>>Done his work, James, in terms of the PGA Tour card. I mean you can say that's all been wrapped up for hit. Now the focus is on winning.

[00:35:43.050]>>back-to-back birdies for taking control of this golf tournament.

[00:35:47.750]>>The smile has departed, and that is a serious young man right now. Austin Hitt, the 28 year old from North Carolina.

[00:36:00.460]>>Pitch, goodness, out of position in here at the 10th.

[00:36:05.720]>>Just covers, that is a really good recovery shot. 10 becomes a scary par 5 once you miss a fairway off a tee.

[00:36:22.070]>>No

[00:36:23.540]>>Just keeps it on that top tier. It's a good shot just like that, yep. And if you think about this too, James, Blades made birdie here at the 10th a day ago. That's his last birdie, 17 straight holes without one.

[00:36:47.290]>>Oh yeah, it is walked in. He make it? Sure he did. Austin hit it.

[00:36:53.070]>>Hollow eagle

[00:36:55.460]>>Full control of this golf tournament.

[00:36:59.420]>>I was just about to say before he hit that shot.

[00:37:03.120]>>How much better does he look in control in this final round? Almost the belief has set in like he's going to the PGA Tour and he deserves to get his first victory on the Korn Ferry Tour and then he goes and makes that.

[00:37:16.500]>>Well, Mel, you think about Blades Brown came on the air leading the golf tournament.

[00:37:20.810]>>Now 4 back. I feel like this is a must make this young man.

[00:37:25.120]>>He's put himself in contention a lot.

[00:37:27.720]>>So to his left.

[00:37:31.460]>>Couple of really nice putts. Blades Brown over the last 4 holes, that one disappears, so the birdie needed after the hit eagle and right now it's Austin Hitt in command of this golf tournament.

[00:37:43.490]>>Sherwood on a tear, he was straight, good tee shot here at the short par 4.

[00:37:50.420]>>Sherwood

[00:37:51.930]>>Another beauty here, look out. I mean he's ruining the party for a lot of guys below him on the leaderboard.

[00:38:00.380]>>Westmoreland

[00:38:02.820]>>So I looked for his birdie.

[00:38:08.130]>>Good line on a really nice line, there we go. Well, he's missed a couple of short ones, maybe that's his range, the big man.

[00:38:22.080]>>I sure would this for 4 straight, James.

[00:38:28.390]>>Just calmly rolling that in.

[00:38:32.590]>>I mean, he's looking for a win. Sherwood picked up his first victory on the Korn Ferry Tour earlier this season at the Colonial Life Charity Classic, and the consistency has been what has got him as PGA Tour part right now, it's the putter.

[00:38:46.670]>>Davis Lamb floating around that position.

[00:38:51.190]>>Birdie here would move him to 20th on the points list, be the last spot.

[00:38:56.640]>>Rolling it great. Nothing dropping, finally getting one to go. Big putt from Lamb.

[00:39:02.940]>>Are you kidding, bounces back from that bogey.

[00:39:07.340]>>Got another man back on the 20th position.

[00:39:11.160]>>About the emotional rollercoaster that Lamb's been on in this final round. Now he's out.

[00:39:27.430]>>Get up there, go, go, go. Go ahead. Oh, here we go, please. OK, yeah, it looked like he thought it had to go a little bit. Mel said he's thrown a couple of deep. He's like, well, why don't I just dial it in and hold high and nearly make it. That was a really good swing. That'll be a chance to close the gap between him and Austin Hitt.

[00:39:55.830]>>They'd tap it in there, much needed, so starting the back nine the way he needed to start it, James.

[00:40:08.380]>>Now Brown. Brown's ball actually plugged in the fairway and that just goes to show how wet these fairways are, so strike is even more important today.

[00:40:21.070]>>That this shot.

[00:40:24.870]>>I

[00:40:44.000]>>To Gabrelcik, how about this shot at 17? Incredible.

[00:40:52.240]>>The Blades Brown, almost back nine. These putts have been going in with speed and confidence.

[00:41:00.540]>>Just like that, dead center and for Blades Brown, the knock on the youngster has been his Sunday play. He's faded instead of pushing, and on this back nine right now looks like a different kid. Yep, game within a game of two guys trying to get their first Korn Ferry Tour victory, even though we know they're going to the PGA Tour cards, so a lot happening in this final group.

[00:41:21.860]>> Gabrelcik at the 17th, this is massive.

[00:41:27.650]>>This would have faked Davis Lamb. How about that birdie? Gabrelcik now inside the top 20 with that putt. One hole left to play. Somebody was gonna do it. It's turned out to be Nick Gabrelcik putting together the round of the day, maybe the round of his life.

[00:41:49.270]>>Go back to hit. And it almost feels a bit like a match base situation now and Hit would absolutely love to hit it on that top tier.

[00:41:57.760]>>I

[00:42:00.520]>>But

[00:42:02.580]>>OK, I should have put off that shelf, but once again it being 214 is par 3, just anything on the surface and James, you mentioned these two pushing each other. Hits last 6 holes, 4 under blades last 4 holes 3 under, so they're doing what they need to do. Lamb needed this one. Beauty at 16, just cleaning that up for Birdie, so.

[00:42:23.480]>>That was a big one for Lamb.

[00:42:26.000]>>That Lamb, Gabrelcik battle, the battle within the battle within the battle continues.

[00:42:34.410]>>Lamb just saw

[00:42:36.590]>>Beautiful tee shot from Dougherty. See if he can do the same, or else he just birdied here at 17.

[00:42:43.390]>>Rip back

[00:42:45.300]>>And how about Lamb playing alongside Docherty, and he's like, come on, you can make some birdies. That's right. I mean now that he he's cheering them on, he can't catch him. I mean Lamb's playing great golf himself, just made a birdie at the par 5.

[00:43:00.250]>>Back here at the 14th, Blade's been brilliant around the greens this week.

[00:43:04.410]>>Still needs this to grab on that down slope.

[00:43:09.130]>>Does just that, that's good hands. How about that tee shot plugging into the down slope, that's how saturated the golf course is right now.

[00:43:22.350]>>Lamb for Birdie at 17.

[00:43:25.220]>>Quick putt downhill.

[00:43:28.060]>>Perfect. Lamb not going away. How about the fist pump from Docherty playing alongside knows exactly what this feels like being in this situation. I mean that's whatever the, the optimum sportsmanship right there.

[00:43:44.610]>>And how about this clutch play from these guys, both understanding the situation.

[00:43:50.090]>> Gabrelcik and Lamb both birdie in 16 and 17. Gabrelcik 6 under for the day, he's got that putt for a 65, 64. A hit at 14.

[00:44:03.590]>>It's a great line. It's a great line. It's a great line. It's a great line.

[00:44:07.240]>>Austin Hitt out of his mind right now.

[00:44:11.640]>>2 shots clear of Blades Brown if he can make par.

[00:44:17.590]>>Just unconscious, you said it, Shane.

[00:44:21.140]>>Lower level, long range, he's holding wedge shots, he's getting long putts to go. Trying to get his first point free tour victory.

[00:44:36.740]>>Around back at 14, that is a.

[00:44:40.880]>>Short miss and a blink for the first time on this back nine from Brown.

[00:44:49.910]>>James, it's a weird situation this Sunday, final event of the year, because when you're on the golf course, you feel like it's in your hands the moment you finish just looking around wondering who can help me. It's a 65. It's a heck of a round of golf. You could see the disappointment that the putt didn't disappear, but Gabrelcik.

[00:45:08.130]>>Kind of look back on today, even if he doesn't get that PGA Tour card, be very proud of the fight. Heck of two weeks, Shane, tied for 3rd last week and he needs it this week, there's still a chance, we'll have to wait and see.

[00:45:32.980]>>Oh, that is so good. That is just brilliant right there from Lamb.

[00:45:39.700]>>What a close from Lamb, you know, a guy that was, got off to a decent start last week, didn't finish that tournament off and,

[00:45:48.580]>>And then you come in here outside the top 20 and you finish with this close after a bogey at 13, he's had 3 birdies and then this at the last, at the par 4 to most likely get up-and-down to save par. You saw where he landed it James, I mean no green to work with, had to hit that perfectly.

[00:46:09.580]>>Dougherty, and this is just an enormous putt.

[00:46:12.900]>>Has nothing to do with Docherty has so much to do with Docherty has so much to do with those others.

[00:46:19.170]>>And a good two putt and what a finish for Alistair Dougherty, a man that has come close multiple times to a PGA Tour card. How about you finish out your Korn Ferry Tour career in style? 65.

[00:46:38.540]>>A lamb is cleaning this up.

[00:46:42.120]>>Heck of an up and in good par and

[00:46:46.170]>>I have no clue where he's at right now, but 20th.

[00:46:49.940]>>On the dot and he's saying thank you so much, Alistair. What do you need for dinner?

[00:46:56.320]>>So once again, yep, that would have affected Young is ahead of land, so.

[00:47:02.340]>>It comes down to Blades Brown for Gabrelcik.

[00:47:08.170]>>And land.

[00:47:13.430]>>Brown this for Birdie.

[00:47:18.090]>>Yeah, great speed. It's a really nice birdie from Brown, and the man that did not want to see that disappear is Gabrelcik, now gonna really need some help from Brown coming in the stretch. He's gonna need a disaster for the 19 year old to sneak into the top 20.

[00:47:37.620]>>Yeah.

[00:47:41.860]>>We see Westmoreland cleaning up here.

[00:47:44.640]>>Gave it a good run, had to win.

[00:47:57.350]>>Please go in

[00:48:02.290]>>Asking for it to go in. What a swing from Blades Brown.

[00:48:07.490]>>Still a chance for a two shot swing and the tournament on the line here, I mean we've kind of forgot that sidebar that,

[00:48:14.770]>>Figured Austin Hitt was just gonna go ahead and walk away with this title, that's could be a birdie there for Blades Brown.

[00:48:34.520]>>OK, did what he needed to do. Put it on the surface, not the easiest of two putts, but gonna have to 3 putt that and gonna have to make that for birdie.

[00:48:51.130]>>Need to make it. Just needs two putts.

[00:48:54.560]>>That will likely wrap this up.

[00:48:57.630]>>It could have that left if it's made to win the Korn Ferry Tour Championship, man that came into the week outside the top 20 bubble and there's so many of those stories we followed today, James.

[00:49:10.330]>>Those were the guys that played solid this week, maybe not their best for hit. I mean, it was right out of the gate, very, very focused.

[00:49:18.970]>>OK.

[00:49:26.150]>>Nope, just powered it through everything and making that putt for hit a lot easier now. Blade's gonna grind over this one.

[00:49:41.450]>>It's a total 2nd for Blades Brown. Gonna be another high finish. He's had a boatload of them this season on both the Korn Ferry Tour and the PGA Tour, and for Blades, work is done. PGA Tour card headed his way.

[00:49:55.160]>>Austin Hitt a couple of feet away from a first victory.

[00:50:00.490]>>And Austin Hitt.

[00:50:03.240]>>was as good as anybody.

[00:50:05.970]>>What a round highlighted by the whole lot eagle and a victory and a PGA Tour card.

[00:50:12.100]>>Austin Hitt is headed to the show.

[00:50:19.140]>>A testament to his fortitude, really, he talked about it. Got himself in position over these final 5 events and he's played some fantastic golf and he needed it most, and his PGA Tour card wasn't secure at all up until 5 events ago when he was just within a chance and then does this in the finals, a 4th and it's, and a win.

[00:50:47.220]>>Get to hear that dreamy voice doing interviews now on the PGA Tour, alongside his roommate, Ryan Gerard and.

[00:50:56.080]>>His teammate in Ben Griffin.

[00:50:58.820]>>2nd at the Advent Health Championship with that 60 and now seeing that and there's the hug.

[00:51:04.800]>>That.

[00:51:07.560]>>Like, I gotta go sign my card. I gotta make sure this is official. I can celebrate later.

[00:51:16.160]>>Take a look at the final standings. Top 20. Ross Steelman edges Sandy Scott by 31 points. James, well, it was, it was a great storyline, a great sidebar, and Sandy Scott possibly running out of a little gas. He turned it into a PGA Tour card in the last 3 events. Shout out to his steady play and Ross Steelman excited.

[00:51:38.330]>>To see him on the PGA Tour, he's gonna be an electric player out there. Yeah, he just hits it so far off the tee, relatively straight. A lot of different storylines. You kind of got the journeyman moving on. You got the youngsters and Tommy Morrison and Blades Brown advancing. Gandon, who I mentioned came close a season ago, now through, and Davis Lamb, James, that last spot.

[00:51:59.500]>>It was a nerve-wracking wait for Davis Lamb and Carson Young, and Yuta also was in the picture, another man from Japan, and yeah, it always is exciting at the Tour Championships around that 20 number, and we had it here this week, Shane.