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## **AdventHealth Championship announces exemptions for 2023 tournament**

*Three players with local ties feature in this year's exemptions*

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri** – The AdventHealth Championship announced today their player exemptions for the 2023 AdventHealth Championship, hosted at Blue Hills Country Club the week of May 15-21, 2023. Joining the field of 156 professionals will be Davis Cooper, Charlie Hillier, Jamie Lovemark, and Joseph Winslow – three of which have local ties to Kansas City.

“We are excited to have players with direct ties to Kansas City in the field this year,” said Tournament Director Rick Amos. “This year’s lineup of exemptions, exemplifies the talent of golf professionals with Kansas City ties. The AdventHealth Championship will give fans the opportunity to cheer on local players as they watch the next stars of the PGA TOUR compete at historic Blue Hills Country Club.”

Davis Cooper joins the field through the automatic exemption awarded to the annual winner of the Watson Challenge. The Overland Park, KS, native and Blue Valley North grad is currently a junior at University of Kansas studying Sports Management. After a successful high school career that saw him win Kenneth Smith Award as the top high school golfer in the KC Metro area, he took his talents to Lawrence. In his first two seasons as a Jayhawk, Davis has nine top 25 finishes, including a win at Windon Memorial in 2022.

Charlie Hillier is coming off his first professional win at the Brazil Open last month in Porto Feliz, Brazil. A native of Te Puke, New Zealand, Charlie played golf at the University of Kansas and turned pro in 2021. The 26-year-old is currently playing in his second season on the PGA TOUR Latinoamerica and sits in the No.2 spot on the Totalplay Cup standings with 699 points, 12 points behind the leader. Hillier ranks No. 1 in the KU records books for career even or under par rounds (78) and career rounds in the 60s (29).

Jamie Lovemark, our 2013 AdventHealth Championship winner, returns to Blue Hills for more than just his sixth appearance, but to also host a charity Pro-Am. The Lovemark Foundation Charity Pro Am presented by STI will be held on Monday, May 15, and will benefit the AdventHealth Kansas City Foundation. The native of Rancho Santa Fe, California, Lovemark and wife Tiva formed the foundation to help those battling brain cancer. The seven-year PGA TOUR veteran played collegiately at the University of Southern California before turning pro in 2009.

Joseph Winslow is another local player rounding out this year’s exemptions. The Overland Park, KS, native played at St. Thomas Aquinas before playing collegiately at the University of Iowa for two years, and then at the University of Southern Florida. Since 2017, Winslow has played on PGA TOURs abroad, including Lationamerica (2017, 2020-22), China (2018), and domestically the

Korn Ferry Tour (2019, 2022). Winslow started the 2023 season strong with a win at the Monday Qualifier for the Sony Open in Hawaii in March. The event was Joseph's first PGA TOUR appearance, where he made the cut and finished T54 at two under.

"It's means a lot to me to be able to play in my home tournament," said Winslow, who is hoping to earn his first PGA TOUR card this year. "I attended this tournament when it first came to Kansas City, and have visualized myself winning it for years."

The AdventHealth Championship is a 72-hole competition featuring 156 players from around the world. Debuting in 2009, the AdventHealth Championship has enjoyed more than a decade of success in the Kansas City area. In 2019, the tournament moved to Blue Hills Country Club where University of Oklahoma product Michael Gellerman edged Kansas City's own Harry Higgs for his first victory. The 2020 edition was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 winner, Cameron Young, was the 2022 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.

The AdventHealth Championship is a cornerstone Kansas City event utilizing professional golf to positively impact the KC Heartland and those charities supported. The 2023 AdventHealth Championship will take place May 15-21 at Blue Hills Country Club. For more information about the AdventHealth Championship, please visit [www.AdventHealthChampionship.com](http://www.AdventHealthChampionship.com).

### **About Korn Ferry Tour**

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour identifies and develops golf's next stars, preparing them to compete and win on the game's biggest stage. The Korn Ferry Tour, which has served as a path to the PGA TOUR since its inception, began providing 50 PGA TOUR cards annually in 2013. Each season, the top 25 players secure PGA TOUR cards via the Korn Ferry Tour's regular season and an additional 25 players secure promotion through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. With more than 590 PGA TOUR titles, 25 major championships and six FedEx Cup Champions, Korn Ferry Tour alumni make up over 75 percent of the PGA TOUR's current membership. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.COM or follow the Korn Ferry Tour on social media.

### **About AdventHealth Championship**

The AdventHealth Championship, a PGA TOUR sanctioned event on the Korn Ferry Tour, is conducted annually at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Missouri. This four-day, 72-hole competition features 156 players from around the world vying for a total purse of \$1,000,000. As the path to the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour features some of the most talented professional golfers who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage.