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**2021 The RSM Classic select player information**

**Sponsor Exemptions**

**Ludvig Aberg**

* 22-year-old Swede makes second PGA TOUR start (T51/2021 Butterfield Bermuda Championship with 68-68-73-73)
* Won the 2021 Jones Cup Invitational at Sea Island, shooting an opening-round 62 and earning a spot in 2021 The RSM Classic
* Made his European Tour debut at the 2018 Nordea Masters (T34)
* Was part of the Swedish team winning the 2019 European Amateur Team Championship
* Won two events in the professional 2020 Nordic Golf League
* Texas Tech golfer won two events in his sophomore season (2020-21) and finished top-10 in 9 of 11 stroke play events
* Rose to No. 1 in the European Amateur Golf Ranking in April 2021
* Took the 36-hole lead at the 2021 European Amateur in France with a second-round 61 to post 16-under, the lowest 36-hole score ever recorded in the championship; went on to finish second behind Denmark’s Christoffer Bring

**Jonathan Byrd**

* Five-time TOUR winner makes 436th start on TOUR and third this season (MC/Fortinet Championship, T20/Butterfield Bermuda Championship)
* Makes 11th appearance at The RSM Classic where he has posted two top-25s (T21/2016, T23/2018); sat T2 (behind eventual winner Mackenzie Hughes) after a first-round 62 in 2016 tournament
* Owns 45 career top-10s, most recent at the 2019 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship (4th)

**Ben Crane**

* With 48 career top-10s, the five-time PGA TOUR winner seeks first top-10 finish since 2019 Puerto Rico Open (T8)
* Makes 428th PGA TOUR start and ninth start at The RSM Classic, where he won in 2011
* 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season was the last time he finished inside the top 125 in the FedExCup (117th)
* Posted one start this season (T67/Butterfield Bermuda Championship)

**J.P. Griffin**

* PGA Section sponsor exemption attended Georgia Southwestern State University and operates out of Capital City Club

**David Hearn**

* Canadian plays his final event on Minor Medical Extension and requires 200 FedExCup points to make combined top 125 or 46 FedExCup points to make combined top 150; if he fails to reach either of these goals he will move into the Past Champions/Veteran Members beyond 150 category
* Seeks first title in 314th start on PGA TOUR; two runner-up finishes have both been playoff defeats (three-man playoff at the 2013 John Deere Classic, won by Jordan Spieth/four-man playoff at the 2015 Greenbrier Classic, won by Danny Lee); one of a small number of PGA TOUR professionals to have earned more than $10 million in prizemoney without a victory
* Makes third start this season (MC/Fortinet Championship, T39/Butterfield Bermuda Championship)
* Owns 23 career top-10s on the PGA TOUR and at least one each season since 2011
* Made seven cuts in eight appearances at The RSM Classic with one top-10 result (T9/2015)
* Founded the David Hearn Foundation in 2015 with a focus on supporting the Alzheimer's Society of Canada; Alzheimer's disease has impacted both his family and his wife's
* Partnered with Rockway Vineyards in 2015 to develop a special edition wine collection under The David Hearn Foundation label, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the foundation and the Alzheimer Society of Canada

**Vaughn Taylor**

* Three-time TOUR winner makes 439th start and third this season (T58/Fortinet Championship, MC/Butterfield Bermuda Championship)
* Owns 100 top-25s, including 41 top-10s, most recent a T6 at the 2021 Valspar Championship
* Most recent of three TOUR titles was 2016 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am
* Notched two top-10s in eight starts at The RSM Classic (T8/2017, T10/2019)

**Davis Thompson**

* Former University of Georgia golfer made professional debut at 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree (T35) and makes eighth PGA TOUR start as a professional in 2021 (MC/Travelers Championship, T58/Rocket Mortgage Classic, T31/Barbasol Championship, T39/Barracuda Championship, MC/Wyndham Championship, T35/Sanderson Farms Championship)
* Son of former Georgia golfer and The RSM Classic tournament director Todd Thompson makes third start in this event; in his PGA TOUR debut, posted 68-70-68-66 to finish T23 at 2019 The RSM Classic while playing as a sponsor exemption; won the Jones Cup by nine shots in February 2020 at Sea Island to earn exemption into 2020 The RSM Classic (MC)
* Finished No. 2 in the 2021 PGA TOUR University ranking to be eligible for Korn Ferry Tour events in 2021
* **While at University of Georgia….**
* Named SEC Golfer of the Year in 2021 and was First Team All-SEC twice (2020, 2021)
* His win at the Tallahassee Regional was his second of the season and fourth of his career
* Posted a 1-2-1 record at the 2021 Walker Cup
* Member of the 2020 USA Palmer Cup Team

**Camilo Villegas**

* Four-time TOUR winner played 26 events last season, posting two top-10s (T6/2020 The RSM Classic, T8/2021 The Honda Classic) en route to finishing No. 130 in the FedExCup
* Owns two top-10s in seven starts at The RSM Classic (T2/2016, T6/2020), making the cut in six of seven starts
* Makes fifth start this season (T35/Shriners Children’s Open, MC/Sanderson Farms Championship, T34 Butterfield Bermuda Championship, MC/World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba)
* Following a shoulder injury, 2021 The Honda Classic marked his 13th event of the season and final event remaining to satisfy a Major Medical Extension; his T8 result allowed him to play the remainder of that season out of the 126-150 category
* <https://golfweek.usatoday.com/2020/10/08/golf-camilo-villegas-daughter-death/>

**Kyle Westmoreland**

* Air Force Captain Monday qualified for the 2019 Utah Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour (T25) [story here](https://www.pgatour.com/korn-ferry-tour/news/2019/06/26/-air-force-captain-kyle-westmoreland-qualifies-utah-championship.html)
* Makes fifth PGA TOUR start (2019 A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier/MC, 2020 Waste Management Phoenix Open/MC, 2021 U.S. Open/T68, 2021 Shriners Children’s Open/MC)
* Advanced through local and sectional qualifying to become the first Air Force Academy graduate to compete in the U.S. Open, where he played all four rounds at Torrey Pines in 2021, finishing T68
* Made seven cuts in eight starts on the Forme Tour in 2021, closing the season 48th on the points list

**Monday Qualifiers**

The RSM Classic Monday Qualifier was held at Brunswick Country Club (par-70) and the following players advanced:

**Kyle Wilshire (62)**

* Carded six birdies and an eagle en route to qualifying for his second PGA TOUR start; also Monday qualified (65) for the 2021 Butterfield Bermuda Championship where he went on to finish T62 with rounds of 73-67-72-72
* 29-year-old Kentucky native played college golf at University of Central Florida where he was a two-time Academic All-American
* Made 10 cuts in 22 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2017 where his best finish was T38/2017 Corales Puntacana Championship
* Played five events on the 2020 LOCALiQ Series, making two cuts and posting one top-10
* Has undergone three knee surgeries and was once a dishwasher at his parents’ restaurant

**Carl Yuan (62)**

* Native of China, but product of the University of Washington goes by the English name of “Carl” (real name is Yechun, pronounced YEH CHOON YOU-ON)
* Became the second PGA TOUR Series-China amateur to win on the circuit when he captured the 2018 Qingdao Championship by a stroke (joined Cheng Jin, who won the 2014 Nine Dragons Open)
* Posted four rounds in the 60s to finish T14 at 2019 Macau Championship
* Played 23 Korn Ferry Tour events in 2019, with third at the Panama Championship his best result; finished No. 59 to retain status for 2020; notched three runner-up results among six top-10s in 31 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour’s extended 2020-21 season
* Missed the cut at 2020 Puerto Rico Open in his most recent of three previous PGA TOUR appearances; finished T35 at 2018 WGC-HSBC Champions and T17 in the same tournament in 2019
* Represented China in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Men’s Golf Competition (T38)

**Mickey DeMorat (63)**

* Former college golfer at Liberty University in Virginia notched one eagle, seven birdies and two bogeys en route to qualifying for his third PGA TOUR start (T56/2018 U.S. Open, MC/2018 Wyndham Championship)
* Didn’t plan to turn pro until earning a spot in the 2018 U.S. Open via sectional qualifying; after punching his ticket to Shinnecock Hills, made his professional debut on his 23rd birthday, going on to make the cut and finish T56
* Shot 65 to Monday qualify for the 2018 Wyndham Championship and went on to miss the cut
* Finished T7 at the 2019 Panama Championship in his first ever Korn Ferry Tour start; played 38 Korn Ferry Tour events in the extended 2020-21 season, making 13 cuts to finish No. 142 in the final standings
* Is the nephew of famed comedian Daniel Tosh, who hosted the long-running show “Tosh.0” on Comedy Central; during the U.S. Open, Tosh, who has 26 million followers, tweeted proudly about DeMorat
* <https://golfweek.usatoday.com/2018/06/16/comedian-daniel-tosh-has-been-humorously-tweeting-nonstop-about-nephew-at-u-s-open/>

**Kevin Yu (64)**

* Chinese Taipei native began playing golf at age five and had been coming to the United States for summer golf tournaments since 2012
* Moved to the U.S. in 2015 before joining the golf team at Arizona State; given name is Chun-An but his teammates knew him as ‘Kevin’ or ‘Chev’
* Makes seventh PGA TOUR start, missing the cut in all but his most recent start (T27/2021 Shriners Children’s Open)
* Played eight Korn Ferry Tour events in 2021, losing a playoff at the TPC Colorado Championship
* Won the 2019 Australian Master of the Amateurs on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff at Royal Melbourne
* Won the 2015 AJGA Junior Players Championship by one stroke with a final-round 5-under 67 after trailing by six