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**2024 THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson select player information**

**Sponsor Exemptions**

**Zecheng Dou**

* Makes his 65th PGA TOUR start and fifth this season
* Lone top-10 finish on TOUR was T5 at this event in 2023 where he was T2 after an opening-round 63
* Makes third appearance at this event (T5/2023, MC/2018)

**Cody Gribble**

* 2016 Sanderson Farms Championship winner makes 115th PGA TOUR start and sixth appearance at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson, making the cut twice (T78/2015, T32/2018)
* Lefthander has played four PGA TOUR events this season, making the cut once (T32/Puerto Rico Open); also made one cut in three Korn Ferry Tour starts in 2024

**James Hahn**

* Two-time PGA TOUR winner makes his 268th start and sixth this season with T33 at Mexico Open in Vidanta his best result
* Owns three top-10s among his eight appearances at this event (T5/2014, 3rd/2017, T9/2022)

**Jarred Jeter**

* Former Sam Houston University golfer and PGA Section sponsor exemption makes PGA TOUR debut
* PGA assistant professional at Midland Country Club won his first Northern Texas PGA section major championship in 2023 with rounds of 65-67–132 (-12) at Odessa Country Club’s Links Course to earn $9,000 and a spot in the field this week; his comment after winning: “It’s going to be an unbelievable experience. That’s one of the reasons I was looking forward to this event. Being able to play well and finally reach that dream of playing in a PGA TOUR event.”

**Kris Kim**

* Surrey, England-based golfer makes his PGA TOUR debut
* Was one of six automatic qualifiers for the victorious 2023 European Junior Ryder Cup Team
* Won the 2023 R&A Boys Amateur Championship (see link) <https://www.englandgolf.org/news-detail?newsarticleid=627>
* Went undefeated in the 2023 Junior Ryder Cup, including a win over 15-year-old Miles Russell, who finished top-20 in a Korn Ferry Tour event in April
* His mother, Ji-Hyun Suh, was one of the Korean pioneers who competed on the LPGA in the 1990s (see link)
* <https://golfweek.usatoday.com/2024/04/29/kris-kim-pga-tour-debut-cj-cup-lpga-mom/>

**Kelly Kraft**

* Seeks his first TOUR win in his 201st start and 10th at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson; made two cuts in nine prior appearances at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson (T49/2016, T79/2023)
* Owns three runner-up finishes on TOUR – one each in 2017, 2018, 2019
* Finished T11 at last week’s Zurich Classic of New Orleans with Kevin Tway as his partner

**Taiga Semikawa**

* Makes 10th PGA TOUR start, first at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson and fifth this season; best finish on TOUR is T30 at the 2024 Sony Open in Hawaii
* Was the No. 1 amateur in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, becoming the fourth Japanese player to reach that position (Hideki Matsuyama, Takumi Kanaya, Keita Nakajima)
* Won three times in Japan in 2022 as an amateur, with the first victory coming on the Abema TV developmental Tour in June; followed that with two wins on the Japan Golf Tour – at the Panasonic Open in September and the Japan Open in October – becoming the first amateur champion of the Japan Open in 95 years; turned professional in November 2022 and added two more Japan Golf Tour wins in 2023 – at the Kansai Open Golf Championship (April) and the Golf Nippon Series JT Cup (December)
* Played golf at the Tohoku Fukushi University, the same university golf team that once featured Hideki Matsuyama
* Named Taiga, and pronounced “TY-guh”, he was born around the time Tiger Woods completed his historic sweep of the major championships

**Austin Smotherman**

* Makes 66th PGA TOUR start and fifth this season, making the cut in his four prior starts; best finish on TOUR is T5 at the 2023 Mexico Open at Vidanta
* Native of Loomis, California who lives in Dallas, Texas, made his PGA TOUR debut at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson in 2017 when he shot 79-69 to miss the cut while playing on a sponsor exemption; makes fourth appearance at this event with T25 in 2022 his best result
* Turned professional in 2016 after graduating from Southern Methodist University (SMU) with a degree in advertisement

**Jimmy Walker**

* Six-time PGA TOUR winner, who includes the 2015 Valero Texas Open and 2016 PGA Championship on his resume of TOUR victories, makes his 419th TOUR start, fourth this season and 16th appearance at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson where he has two top-10s (T2/2015, T6/2018)
* Boerne, Texas resident owns 46 top-10s on TOUR with his most recent a T6 at the 2021 Memorial Tournament presented by Workday
* Was the 2004 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year, winning the first two professional events of his career (BellSouth Panama Championship, Chitimacha Louisiana Open) and ending the year as the leading money winner
* Avid Astro-photographer who has had his photos featured on Astronomy Picture of the Day
* Contracted Lyme disease in April 2017 and battled with it since

**Select Players**

**David Nyfjäll**

* Earns a spot in the field as the 2023 Byron Nelson Award recipient which has been awarded every year since 2002; second Northwestern University golfer to receive the award (Ryan Lumsden/2019)
* After an outstanding amateur career, 25-year-old from Sweden turned professional after successfully qualifying for the 2023 U.S. Open (MC) and now makes his second PGA TOUR start
* Since turning professional, has competed on the Challenge Tour and Nordic Golf League
* In 2018, became the first male player to win both the Swedish Junior Matchplay Championship and the Swedish Junior Strokeplay Championship in the same year; Jonas Blixt had previously won both tournaments, but not in the same season
* Named Big Ten Conference Freshman of the Year in 2018 while at Northwestern University after a season with a 71.72 stroke average, the lowest average from any first-year player in program history, including Luke Donald
* Made the cut in the 2019 Scandanavian Invitation on the DP World Tour
* Advanced to the round of 16 at the 2021 U.S. Amateur after triumphing in a 12-man playoff for the last match play spot
* Won the 2022 Big Ten Championship by firing a 1-under 215 at the Pete Dye Course at French Lick Resort; was the only golfer in the 72-man field to finish the weekend under par

**Top-10s from Corales Puntacana Championship**

**Wesley Bryan (2nd)**

* 2017 RBC Heritage winner makes 116th PGA TOUR start and third appearance at this event (T26/2021, T65/2022, MC/2023)
* Held the solo-lead after 18-, 36- and 54-holes at 2024 Corales Puntacana Championship, shot 68 in the final round to finish runner-up to Billy Horschel who closed with a tournament record-tying 63
* Was sidelined for four months in 2021 following wrist surgery in July that year
* Was playing on his last start of a major medical extension when he made the cut on the number at 2022 Valspar Championship, but failed to finish high enough to satisfy his medical extension; in his very next start finished T15 at Corales Puntacana Championship, his best result in 19 appearances on TOUR that season
* Makes third start this season (MC/Puerto Rico Open, 2nd/Corales Puntacana Championship)

**Peter Kuest *(QUEST)* (T9)**

* Last month, advanced in a 5-for-1 playoff with a birdie at the second extra hole of the Monday qualifier for the Valero Texas Open, where he finished T10 to earn a spot in the field at the Corales Puntacana Championship (T9) (see link) [Monday qualifier Peter Kuest finishes top 10 at Valero, earns another start - PGA TOUR](https://www.pgatour.com/article/news/latest/2024/04/07/monday-qualifier-peter-kuest-earns-spot-in-corales-punta-cana-championship-with-top-10-finish-valero-texas-open)
* With a final-round 63 at the 2023 CJ CUP Byron Nelson, moved from T33 to T14, his only prior appearance at this event
* Last season, finished T4 at the 2023 Rocket Mortgage Classic, where he was the 18-hole co-leader, to earn a spot in the field at the John Deere Classic the following week, where he required 2.328 FedExCup points to become eligible for PGA TOUR Special Temporary Membership, which he achieved comfortably with his T17 finish
* Notched five top-25 finishes in 15 starts in the 2022-23 season while seeking to secure PGA TOUR membership and now makes his 23nd TOUR start
* Fresno, California native played collegiate golf at BYU after attending Clovis West High School
* Made one cut in six Korn Ferry Tour starts in 2024 (T47/The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic); posted one top-10 in 13 Korn Ferry Tour starts in 2022 (T5/Utah Championship)
* His dad played soccer at Fresno State

**Monday Qualifiers**

The Monday qualifier for THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson was held at Tierra Verde GC (par-72) and the following players advanced (see link:

<https://www.pgatour.com/article/news/monday-qualifiers/2024/04/29/monday-qualifiers-the-cj-cup-byron-nelson>

**Max McGreevy (63)**

* Makes his 66th PGA TOUR start and first this season after earning medalist honors at the Monday qualifier; runner-up at the 2022 Puerto Rico Open marks his best result in 65 starts on TOUR
* Edmond, Oklahoma native celebrates his 29th birthday on Friday (May 3)
* Good friends with World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler and shared a house with him for a few years when starting his professional career
* Played nine Korn Ferry Tour events in 2024 with a season-best T3 at the Club Car Championship; finished T22 at last week’s Korn Ferry Tour event
* Makes third appearance at this event (T83/2022, MC/2023)

**K.K. Limbhasut (63) *(pronounced Lim-bah-soot)***

* Makes third PGA TOUR start; advanced in a Monday qualifier 5-for-2 playoff to earn a spot at 2020 Farmers Insurance Open (MC); also Monday qualified for the 2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic (T44)
* Native of Thailand came to California as a 14-year-old, eventually having an outstanding college career at Cal-Berkley (71.38 career scoring average); graduated in May 2019 with bachelor’s degree in business administration; played 2018 Arnold Palmer Cup with Collin Morikawa
* Medalist at first stage of 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Q School where 17-under total included second-round 62; missed advancing out of final stage by two strokes
* Best result in eight Korn Ferry Tour starts in 2024 is T5 at the 117 Visa Argentina Open; played 37 events in the 2020-21 extended Korn Ferry Tour season, posting two top-10s (T10/Korn Ferry Challenge, T10/Lincoln Land Championship)

**Quade Cummins (64)**

* Advanced in a 3-for-2 playoff in the Monday qualifier
* Makes sixth PGA TOUR start and first since the 2022 Sanderson Farms Championship (MC); PGA TOUR debut came at 2020 World Wide Technology Championship (T67)
* Owns three top-10s in eight Korn Ferry Tour starts this season, Including two consecutive in The Bahamas to kick off the year and a T6 at last week’s Veritex Bank Championship
* Former Oklahoma University standout was the first Sooner in 16 years to make the Walker Cup team, representing the winning USA team at Seminole in 2021; also became OU’s first four-time All-American
* Made first start as a professional at 2021 L&J Golf Championship at Jennings Mill CC (T10) on the Forme Tour

**Brad Hopfinger (64)**

* Made an eagle-2 at the par-4 17th hole and a par at No. 18 in regulation before advancing in a 3-for-2 playoff in the Monday qualifier to make his PGA TOUR debut
* Mission Viejo, California native and former University of Iowa golfer notched a T3 at the 2020 Wichita Open, marking his lone top-three finish among nine top-10s on the Korn Ferry Tour
* He and wife, Sarah, anticipate the arrival of their first child in seven weeks