



2023 Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard (4th of 26 events on Korn Ferry Tour 2023 Schedule)

Tournament Media Site | Interview Transcripts

Bogota, Colombia February 9-12, 2023 Points: 500 (winner)

Country Club de Bogota (Lagos) Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,237 Purse: \$1,000,000 / \$180,000 (winner)

Third-Round Notes - Saturday, February 11, 2023

Weather: Morning partly sunny with a high of 69 with afternoon scattered showers. Wind E/NE 5-10 mph, gusts up to 15 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Kris Ventura67-66-69—202 (-10)Rhein Gibson68-69-66—203 (-9)Ryan Gerard67-68-68—203 (-9)Thomas Rosenmueller64-71-68—203 (-9)Kevin Dougherty63-68-72—203 (-9)

Four Players Tied 204 (-8)

Things to Know

- Two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner Kris Ventura cards a 2-under 69 to take the second 54-hole lead / co-lead of his
 career (previous: one-stroke lead at 2019 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna; won by two strokes)
- Five of the nine players standing T6 or higher are past Korn Ferry Tour winners Kris Ventura (two wins in 2019),
 Rhein Gibson (T2 / -9; won in 2019), Brett Drewitt (T6 / -8; won in 2020),
 David Kocher (T6 / -8; won in 2020 and 2022)
- **Kevin Dougherty**, the outright 36-hole leader, cards a 1-over 72 and falls into a 4-way T2, one stroke behind outright leader Kris Ventura
- Yuto Katsuragawa (T10 / -7), the highest ranked player in the Official World Golf Ranking (No. 129) in this week's field, records Saturday's only bogey-free round and ties the low round of the day with a 5-under 66 to rise from T46 to T10
- Noah Goodwin (T15 / -6), who earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time with a No. 3 finish in the 2022 PGA TOUR Canada Fortinet Cup, matches the low round of the day with a 5-under 66 and makes the largest climb up the leaderboard in the third round (T62 to T15)
- Entering Sunday's final round, the top 14 players are within three strokes of each other
- Final-round tee times will run in groups of three from 6:35 a.m. through 11:15 a.m. ET off No. 1 tee

Charting the Leader (stats entering the week)

Category	Kris Ventura
Age	27 (February 24, 1995)
2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 111
Starts – wins – top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour (2022)	22-0-1
Starts – wins – top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour (2023)	3-0-0
Starts – wins – top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour (Career)	44-2-7
Starts – wins – top-10s at the Astara Golf	1-0-0
Championship presented by Mastercard	

Kris Ventura (Leader / -10)

- Holds second career 54-hole lead in a Korn Ferry Tour event, having converted his previous one-stroke 54-hole lead into a two-stroke victory at the 2019 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna
- Opened third round with back-to-back bogeys but rallied with four birdies, including a 10-footer on No. 18 for the outright lead
- Record this season includes missed cut in season opener followed by finishes of T46 and T49

- Turned professional in 2018 out of Oklahoma State University and earned conditional Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2019 season with a T129 at Final Stage of the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
- Graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following a two-win 2019 season (won Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna)
- Finished outside the top 150 in the FedExCup Standings on the PGA TOUR in both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons, falling back to the Korn Ferry Tour for the 2022 season
- A native of Puebla, Mexico who represents Norway and currently resdes in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Quotables

- Kris Ventura on making birdie on No. 18 to take the outright 54-hole lead: "It was certainly nice to finish with a birdie. Just started the day pretty rough. All of us started with bogeys. It wasn't easy, so you had to be smart out there. Little by little I started getting back those shots, so I'm really proud that I was able to fight back and shoot under par."
- Kris Ventura on his 2022 season: "Last year was very tough for me, not the year that I wanted, but I've made some big changes and I'm excited about it. It's almost like if last year didn't happen, I wouldn't be where I am today. I look forward to continuing to play good."
- Thomas Rosenmueller on his game this week: "I've played really well. I think I've missed about four greens the entire week. Been really good off the tee, been really good into the greens and now just wait for the putter to get a little bit hotter. But overall the game feels really good. I'm not surprised to see myself very far atop the leaderboard because I played well the last few weeks, been trending in the right direction and hopefully can get it done tomorrow."
- Thomas Rosenmueller on earning 12 guaranteed starts for fhe 2023 season via Final Stage: "It was very big. Especially going through it the year before, I knew the courses so it was an advantage overall playing better than the year before. Didn't have to shoot 63 in the final round to make it, so I was a lot more relaxed going into the final round and was able to put it on cruise control. Tried to win, but I knew that I wasn't going to miss it."

Notes

- Four different countries are represented in the top five: **Kris Ventura** (Norway), **Rhein Gibson** (Australia), **Thomas Rosenmueller** (Germany), **Ryan Gerard** and **Kevin Dougherty** (United States)
- Thomas Rosenmueller (T2 / -9) holds his highest 54-hole position in his 26th career Korn Ferry Tour start; his previous career-high 54-hole position in a Korn Ferry Tour event was T14 at the 2022 Lake Charles Championship (finished T21)
- First-year member **Ryan Gerard** (T2 / -9), who earned membership with a No. 5 in the 2022 PGA TOUR Canada Fortinet Cup, stands T10 or higher for the fifth time in the last seven Korn Ferry Tour rounds
- Rosenmueller and Rhein Gibson (T2 / -9) led the field with seven birdies apiece in the third round
- Gibson and **Brady Calkins** (T10 / -7) are tied for the most birdies in the field this week (18 apiece), and are tied with **Rico Hoey** (T15 / -6) for the most total birdies this week (17 birdies, one eagle)

Round Three Course Statistics - Lagos

- Scoring Average (Par 71): 71.187 [+0.187]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine Par 35): 35.467 [+0.467]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine Par 36): 35.720 [-0.280]
- Toughest Hole: No. 2, Par 4, 525 yards 4.293 [+0.293]
- Easiest Hole: No. 8, Par 5, 555 yards 4.547 [-0.453]