



LECOM Suncoast Classic (8th of 26 events on 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Schedule) Tournament Media Site | Interview Transcripts

Lakewood Ranch, Florida Lakewood National Golf Club April 16 – 19, 2025 Par/Yards: 71 / 7,133 Points: 500 (winner) Purse: \$1,000,000 / \$180,000 (winner)

Second-Round Notes – Thursday, April 17, 2025

Weather: Sunny. High of 87. Wind W/NW at 4-10 mph, gusts up to 14 mph.

36-hole cut: 69 professionals at 5-under 137 from a field of 154 professionals and two amateurs.

Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	Total
T1	Jorge Fernández Valdés	61	69	130 (-12)
	Michael Johnson	64	66	130 (-12)
3	Mark Goetz	68	63	131 (-11)
T4	Robby Shelton	66	66	132 (-10)
	Tanner Gore	62	70	132 (-10)
	Chase Sienkiewicz	66	66	132 (-10)
	Austin Hitt	65	67	132 (-10)
	Neal Shipley	64	68	132 (-10)

Charting the Co-Leaders

Category	Jorge Fernández Valdés	Michael Johnson
Age	32	32
2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 157	No. 69
Starts – Wins – Top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour in 2025	6-0-0	7-0-0
Starts – Wins – Top-10s in Korn Ferry Tour Career	110-1-4	148-0-7
Starts – Wins – Top-10s at LECOM Suncoast Classic	2-0-0	3-0-0

Jorge Fernández Valdés (T1/-12)

- Follows a first-round career-low 10-under 61 with 2-under 69; ties his second-lowest 36-hole total on the Korn Ferry Tour (130/2023 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH/finished: 1st)
- Holds the first 36-hole lead/co-lead of his Korn Ferry Tour career in what is his 111th start
- Previous career-high 36-hole position was T2, five times, with the most recent resulting in a victory at the 2023 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH
- Best finish in two previous starts at the LECOM Suncoast Classic is T22/2023 (other: MC/2024)
- Owns two made cuts in six events played this season (best finish: T60/Club Car Championship at The Landings Golf & Athletic Club)
- Missed part of the 2024 season due to an injury
- Previously finished No. 31 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, one spot out from earning PGA TOUR membership (top 30 from Points List); entered the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance at No. 24 on the Points List but fell to No. 31 with a T61 finish
- Captured his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory at the 2023 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH, defeating Korn Ferry Tour member Trent Phillips; became the first of two Argentinian winners on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023 (Alejandro Tosti/Pinnacle Bank Championship)
- A four-time winner on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica; earned Korn Ferry Tour membership via finishing No. 3 in the 2022 Totalplay Cup standings off the strength of three top-10s including a victory

Michael Johnson (T1/-12)

- Posts a first-round 7-under 64 followed by 5-under 66 to record a new career-low 36-hole score, totaling 130 through the first two rounds (previous best: 132/three times/2023 HomeTown Lenders Championship, 2018 and 2022 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH)
- Holds the first 36-hole lead/co-lead of his Korn Ferry Tour career in what is his 149th start
- Previous career-high 36-hole position was T2 (twice: 2023/Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation/finished T26, 2022/UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH/finished T19)
- Making fourth career start at the LECOM Suncoast Classic (best finish: T17/2019)
- Had made four cuts in seven starts this season (best finish: T13/2025 Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard)
- Finished No. 69 on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, earning fully exempt status for the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour season (top 75 from Points List); finished in the top 75 of the Points List for the first time since 2018, when he finished No. 55 in the standings
- Began the 2024 season with conditional status (finishers between Nos. 76-100 from 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List) and posted a T6 in the second event of the season, The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, to climb the priority ranking and play the remainder of the season
- Played five season at Auburn University (2011-16), where he was a five-time winner and a First-Team All-American his senior season; tied with Roland Thatcher for most single-season wins (3)

Additional Notes

- Second-year member **Mark Goetz** (3rd/-11), who finished No. 98 on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie and earned conditional status for the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour season (finished between 76-100 on the Points List), ties the low round of the day (Davis Chatfield) and matches his career-low round in 8-under 63 (other: 2024/Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Hiland Dairy Foods/finished T3)
- Rookie **Chase Sienkiewicz** (T4/-10), who earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time by finishing in the Next 25 and Ties at Final Stage of 2024 PGA TOUR Q-School, ties his career-low round on the Korn Ferry Tour in 5-under 66, and establishes a new career-high 36-hole position (previous: T10/2025 Club Car Championship at The Landings Golf & Athletic Club/finished T60)
- Four-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Robby Shelton** (T4/-10), who finished No. 141 in the 2024 FexExCup Fall standings on the PGA TOUR, stands inside the top-five of a Korn Ferry Tour event following 36 holes for the first time since the 2022 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNNEX, where he went onto claim his third career victory
- 18-hole leader **Tanner Gore** (T4/-10) follows a first-round career-low 9-under 62 with 1-under 70 to stand inside the top-10 following 36 holes for the third time this season (others: T4/The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club/finished T40, T9/The Bahamas Golf Classic at Atlantis Paradise Island/finished T45)
- First-year member **Zach James** (T9/-9) establishes a new career-high 36-hole position (previous: T17/2025 Visa Argentina Open presented by Macro); in seven starts this season, has made two cuts highlighted by a T7 finish at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
- Rookie **Samuel Anderson** (T14/-8) finishes his second round with six consecutive birdies (Nos. 4-9) to tie the longest birdie streak to finish a round in Korn Ferry Tour history; posts 5-under 66 to make his fifth cut in eight starts this season (best finish: T19/2025 Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard)
- Seventeen-year-old professional and sponsor exemption **Blades Brown** (T37/-6) makes his second consecutive cut on the Korn Ferry Tour in as many starts; finished T41 in his Korn Ferry Tour debut at the 2025 Club Car Championship at The Landings Golf and Athletic Club; joins Si Woo Kim (2013) as the only players in Korn Ferry Tour history to make the cut in multiple events prior to turning 18 years old
- Monday qualifier **Maxwell Moldovan** (T52/-5) makes birdie on No. 9 his final hole of Round 2 to make the cut on the number in his Korn Ferry Tour debut