



# NV5 Invitational (19th of 26 events on 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Schedule) Tournament Media Site | Interview Transcripts

Glenview, Illinois July 24 – 27, 2025 Points: 500 (winner)

The Glen Club Par/Yards: 71 / 7,236 Purse: \$1,000,000 / \$180,00 (winner)

### Third-Round Notes - Saturday, July 26, 2025

Weather: Mostly cloudy and scattered showers. High of 83. Wind S/SE at 4-8 mph

### **Leaderboard**

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	Johnny Keefer	65	63	61	189 (-24)
2	Caleb VanArragon	63	66	64	193 (-20)
3	Davis Chatfield	62	68	64	194 (-19)
T4	Trent Phillips	66	66	63	195 (-18)
	Ryan Burnett	65	66	64	195 (-18)
	Jeffrey Kang	65	63	67	195 (-18)

### Charting the Leaders (stats entering week)

Category	Johnny Keefer		
Age	24		
2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 2		
Starts – Wins – Top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour in 2025	15-1-5		
Starts – Wins – Top-10s in Korn Ferry Tour Career	15-1-5		
Starts – Wins – Top-10s at NV5 Invitational	0-0-0		

## Johnny Keefer (1st/-24)

- Matches his 18-hole career-low with a bogey-free 10-under 61 (three times, last: 2025 Veritex Bank Championship/R2)
- At 24-under 189 (65-63-61), records a 54-hole career-low score and breaks the 54-hole tournament scoring record of 193, previously established by Trace Crowe (2023) and Thomas Rosenmueller (2024), both of whom went on to win
- 1-for-2 in converting 54-hole leads in his Korn Ferry Tour career; won the 2025 Veritex Bank Championship
- Bidding to become the third player with multiple wins on Tour this season (Austin Smotherman/two wins; Neal Shipley/two wins)
- Leads the field in eagles with four, including two in his third round (Nos. 5, 15)
- Stands No. 2 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List off the strength of his victory at the Veritex Bank Championship, as well as nine top 25 finishes and five top-10s
- Highest-ranked player in the field at No. 86 in the Official World Golf Rankings
- Earned fully exempt status on the Korn Ferry Tour for the 2025 season by finishing No. 1 in the 2024 Fortinet Cup standings on PGA TOUR Americas; in 10 starts last season, made all 10 cuts and posted nine top-10s, including four runner-up finishes and a victory at the 2024 Manitoba Open
- Claimed the final spot in the 2024 PGA TOUR University Ranking and finished No. 25 to earn exempt membership into the North America Swing of PGA TOUR Americas
- Played five seasons (2019-24) at Baylor University where he recorded seven top-three finishes, highlighted by two victories (2021/Rice Intercollegiate, 2023/Valero Texas Collegiate); topped PGA TOUR member Jimmy Walker's school record for career stroke average (71.45)

#### **Additional Notes**

- Keefer is the fifth player on Tour this season to hold a 54-hole lead of four-plus strokes; two have gone on to win (S.H. Kim/AdventHealth Championship/led by five strokes; Chandler Blanchet/Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Hiland Dairy Foods/led by four strokes)
- Rookie **Caleb VanArragon** (2nd/-20), who earned Korn Ferry Tour membership via Final Stage of 2024 PGA TOUR Q-School, matches his career-high 54-hole position (T2/2025 Veritex Bank Championship/finished 9th)
- 18-hole leader **Davis Chatfield** (3rd/-19), who is No. 8 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, posts a bogey-free 7-under 64 and stands inside the top five after three rounds for the sixth time this season
- Ryan Burnett (T4/-18), who earned Korn Ferry Tour membership via a No. 9 finish on the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas Fortinet Cup, had not stood higher than T11 through 54 holes in 29 career starts on Tour
- Trent Phillips (T4/-18), who birdied four of his final five holes (Nos. 14, 16, 17, 18) en route to a bogey-free 8-under 63, stands inside the top five through three rounds for the first time since the 2024 Veritex Bank Championship (3rd/finished 3rd)
- Three-time Korn Ferry Tour winner and two-time winner this season **Austin Smotherman** (T7/-17), who was the first player this season to earn a #TOURBound declaration and secure PGA TOUR membership for the 2026 season, is bidding to become the 14th player in Tour history to achieve the Three-Victory Promotion, earning an immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR (last: 2024/Matt McCarty)
- Rookie **Sandy Scott** (T14/-16), who earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time via a No. 8 finish on the PGA TOUR Americas Fortinet Cup, is the only player in the field bogey-free through 54 holes
- Open qualifier Hunter Eichhorn (T14/-16), who was one of three open qualifiers to make the 36-hole cut, is in search of a top 25 finish to secure a start at next week's Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health
- Sponsor exemption Charlie Nikitas (T60/-11), who plays from Glenview, Illinois, made a hole-in-one on the 221-yard par-3 11th en route to a 4-under 67