



Pre-Tournament Notes The Ascendant presented by Blue

July 10-13, 2025 • Berthoud, Colorado
TPC Colorado • Par 72 • 8,015 yards
156 players • Purse: \$1,000,000 (\$180,000/Winner)
Reigning Champion: Cristobal Del Solar



THIS WEEK ON TOUR

- Following an off week, the Korn Ferry Tour season continues with The Ascendant presented by Blue, the 17th event of the Tour's 26-event season.
- TPC Colorado has hosted every iteration of The Ascendant presented by Blue, first played in 2019. This week marks the seventh playing of The Ascendant.
- Austin Smotherman** became the first Korn Ferry Tour member to earn a #TOURBound declaration and secure PGA TOUR membership for the 2026 season. Across a three-week stretch in June, Smotherman won the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX and Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS, which vaulted him to the No. 1 position on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, and effectively assured himself of a top 20 finish on the final Points List. Smotherman previously graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following the 2020-21 season, after which he played three consecutive seasons on the PGA TOUR.
- Brian Campbell, who finished T2 at the 2024 Ascendant presented by Blue and earned PGA TOUR membership via the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, captured his second PGA TOUR win of the 2025 season at last week's John Deere Classic. Campbell also won the 2025 Mexico Open at VidantaWorld in February.
- Cristobal Del Solar won the 2024 Ascendant presented by Blue by four strokes at 22-under 266, breaking tournament records for margin of victory and 72-hole score. Del Solar followed Benjamin Alvarado (2013) and Mito Pereira (2020-21) as the third Chilean to win on the Korn Ferry Tour. Del Solar finished No. 14 on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and earned his first PGA TOUR card.
- PGA TOUR winner Matt McCarty (T5) was also one of six players who finished T5 or higher at the 2024 Ascendant presented by Blue and earned PGA TOUR membership at season's end. Two of the three players who finished T5 or higher but did not earn PGA TOUR membership are in this week's field: **Alistair Docherty** (4th) and **Christo Lamprecht** (T5).

2025 KEY STORYLINES

- Justin Suh**, the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year, returned to the winner's circle earlier this season with a five-stroke victory at the 118th VISA Argentina Open presented by Macro in March. The win earned Suh an exemption for the 153rd Open Championship at Royal Portrush next week.
- Korn Ferry Tour rookie **Johnny Keefe** stands No. 2 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List off the strength of his win at the 2025 Veritex Bank Championship and two runner-up finishes. In addition to five top-10s in 13 starts on Tour this season, Keefe earned starts in two of this year's major championships (PGA Championship/MC; U.S. Open/T61). Last year, Keefe finished No. 25 -- the final spot which awarded performance benefits -- in the 2024 PGA TOUR University Ranking, and finished No. 1 in the 2024 Fortinet Cup standings for the inaugural PGA TOUR Americas season.
- Four of the top 10 players on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List do not have a victory this season: No. 5 **Pierceson Coody**, No. 6 **Davis Chatfield**, No. 7 **Emilio Gonzalez**, No. 9 **Mitchell Meissner**.
- Canadian **Myles Creighton** earned his first Korn Ferry Tour title at the 2025 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open, highlighted by an 11-under 59 in the third round. Creighton recorded the 15th sub-60 round in Korn Ferry Tour history, though he became only the third player to accomplish the feat and win the tournament.
- Korn Ferry Tour winner **Neal Shipley** finished T5 at the Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS, which marked his first top-10 since winning the LECOM Suncoast Classic in April. Shipley, a rookie this season, stands No. 10 on the 2025 Points List.
- 18-year-old professional **Blades Brown** is one of eight players who gained entry to the field as an open qualifier. Brown would earn Special Temporary Membership for the remainder of the 2025 season should he record at least a 2-way T35 finish (to eclipse the Special Temporary Membership threshold of 237718 points) this week. Brown finished T2 at the 2025 Veritex Bank Championship, which marked the highest finish by a player under the age of 18 in Korn Ferry Tour history.

2025 SCHEDULE

Dates	Tournament	Winner (Score)
Jan. 12-15	The Bahamas Golf Classic at Atlantis Paradise Island	Hank Lebioda (-18 / 262) #
Jan. 19-22	The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club	Sudarshan Yellamaraju (-25 / 263)
Jan. 30 - Feb. 2	The Panama Championship	Josh Teater (-9 / 271)
Feb. 6-9	Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard	Kyle Westmoreland (-18 / 265)
Feb. 27 - March 2	118th VISA Argentina Open presented by Macro	Justin Suh (-23 / 275)
March 6-9	Astara Chile Classic presented by Scotiabank	Logan McAllister (-19 / 265)
April 3-6	Club Car Championship at The Landings Golf & Athletic Club	Jeremy Gandon (-17 / 271) #
April 16-19	LECOM Suncoast Classic	Neal Shipley (-18 / 266) #
April 24-27	Veritex Bank Championship	Johnny Keefe (-30 / 254)
May 1-4	Tulum Championship at PGA Riviera Maya	Bryson Nimmer (-9 / 279) #
May 15-18	AdventHealth Championship	S.H. Kim (-20 / 268)
May 22-25	Visit Knoxville Open	Pontus Nyholm (-19 / 265) #
May 29 - June 1	UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH	Trace Crowe (-21 / 259)
June 5-8	BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX	Austin Smotherman (-25 / 260)
June 19-22	Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open	Myles Creighton (-17 / 263)
June 26-29	Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS	Austin Smotherman [2] (-25 / 259)
July 10-13	The Ascendant presented by Blue	
July 17-20	Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Hiland Dairy Foods	
July 24-27	NV5 Invitational	
July 31 - Aug. 3	Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health	
Aug. 7-10	Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Woodhouse	
Aug. 14-17	Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron	
Korn Ferry Tour Finals		
Sept. 11-14	Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation	
Sept. 18-21	Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship	
Oct. 2-5	Compliance Solutions Championship	
Oct. 9-12	Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance	

Korn Ferry Tour Finals refers to the final four events of the 26-event season, where players will compete for increased purses and points (600 points for winning a Finals event, compared to 500 for winning one of the 22 preceding events) to determine the season-long points race. The total purse for each of the first 22 events is \$1 million (\$180,000 to the winner) and increases to \$1.5 million (\$270,000 to the winner) for the four Korn Ferry Tour Finals events.

- denotes playoff victory



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TOURNAMENT FIELD STORYLINES

- Field includes six PGA TOUR winners with 13 career victories, highlighted by **Ben Crane** with five career TOUR victories.
- The field features 43 Korn Ferry Tour winners who have combined for 66 career victories, led by four-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Robby Shelton**.
- Seven players in this week's field are in the top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Johnny Keefe** (No. 84), **Austin Smotherman** (No. 113), **Pierceson Coody** (No. 130), **Kensei Hirata** (No. 138), **Neal Shipley** (No. 143), **Hank Lebioda** (No. 154), and **Trace Crowe** (No. 183).
- Two past champions of The Ascendant presented by Blue are in this week's field: **Zecheng Dou** (2022) and **Nelson Ledesma** (2019).
- Conditional member **Chris Korte**, Korn Ferry Tour winner and Class of 2022 Korn Ferry Tour graduate **Kyle Westmoreland**, as well as Class of 2023 Korn Ferry Tour graduate **Tom Whitney** all have ties to the state of Colorado. Westmoreland and Whitney both graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, while Korte, a native of Littleton who played collegiately at University of Denver, open qualified into the field and will make his first Korn Ferry Tour start of the 2025 season.
- Additional players in the field with ties to the state of Colorado include open qualifiers **Connor Jones** (Colorado State University alum from Westminster, winner of the 2022 Colorado Golf Association Amateur Championship) and **Sangha Park** (Colorado Christian University alum), as well as sponsor exemptions **Zahkai Brown** (Colorado State University alum from Westminster) and 17-year-old amateur **Brayden Forte** (from Aurora).
- Preston Summerhays** (No. 125 on 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List) leads the nine players in the field from the top 10 of the 2025 PGA TOUR University Eligibility Ranking: **Ian Gilligan**, **Algot Kleen**, **Phichaksn Maichon**, **Omar Morales**, **Sebastian Moss**, **Pablo Ereno Perez**, **Brendan Valdes**, and **Jackson Van Paris**.

PAST CHAMPIONS

Year	Player (Score)
2024	Cristobal Del Solar (-22 / 266)
2023	Nicholas Lindheim (-20 / 268)
2022	Zecheng Dou (-17 / 271)
2021	Tag Ridings (-16 / 272)
2020	Will Zalatoris (-15 / 273)
2019	Nelson Ledesma (-15 / 273)

2024 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Cristobal Del Solar	66	68	66	66	266 (-22)
T2	Brian Campbell	64	71	68	67	270 (-18)
	Matthew Riedel	71	69	64	66	270 (-18)
4	Alistair Docherty	68	71	63	69	271 (-17)
T5	Timmy Crawford	66	73	68	65	272 (-16)
	Christo Lamprecht	70	64	72	66	272 (-16)
	Jeremy Paul	66	72	68	66	272 (-16)
	Trevor Cone	66	68	71	67	272 (-16)
	Matt McCarty	65	68	64	75	272 (-16)

KORN FERRY TOUR POINTS LIST

At the end of the 26-event Korn Ferry Tour season, the top 20 players on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List will be awarded PGA TOUR cards (i.e. - membership) for the 2026 season.

Players listed in ***Bold Italics*** are declared #TOURBound and are assured of a finish in the top 20 of the final Points List.

Click here to view the full points list:
[2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List](#)

Rank	Player	Points
1	<i>Austin Smotherman</i>	1,641
2	Johnny Keefe	1,393
3	Hank Lebioda	1,340
4	S.H. Kim	1,301
5	Pierceson Coody	1,003
6	Davis Chatfield	914
7	Emilio Gonzalez	838
8	Josh Teater	826
9	Mitchell Meissner	817
10	Neal Shipley	808
11	Trace Crowe	793
12	Seungtaek Lee	789
13	Pontus Nyholm	765
14	Jeremy Gandon	735
15	Kensei Hirata	732
16	Justin Suh	713
17	Myles Creighton	691
18	Alvaro Ortiz	683
19	Logan McAllister	656
20	Sudarshan Yellamaraju	648
21	Kyle Westmoreland	646
22	Bryson Nimmer	609
23	Rick Lamb	603
24	Cole Sherwood	515
25	Christo Lamprecht	486
26	Ian Holt	496
27	Russell Knox	486
28	Ross Steelman	481
29	Adrien Dumont de Chassart	481
30	Chandler Blanchet	478

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

Low 18-Hole Score:	63	Chase Johnson (2020/R4), Greyson Sigg (2020/R4) Taylor Moore (2021/R1), Richy Werenski (2024/R1), Alistair Docherty (2024/R3)
Low 36-Hole Score:	131	Tyson Alexander (2021)
Low 54-Hole Score:	197	Matt McCarty (2024)
Low 72-Hole Score:	266	Cristobal Del Solar (2024)
Largest Margin of Victory:	4	Cristobal Del Solar (2024)
Playoffs:	1	2021 (Tag Ridings defeated David Skinns, Kevin Yu)
Holes-in-One:	5	Last: Timmy Crawford / 2024 / No. 3 (par 4) / R3

COURSE INFORMATION

TPC Colorado	
Years Hosted:	2019-present
Scoring Average (2024):	70.554 / -1.446
Toughest Hole (2024):	No. 8, Par 3, 194 yards (3.238 / +0.238)
Easiest Hole (2024):	No. 5, Par 5, 638 yards (4.452 / -0.548)
Front-Nine Average (2024):	34.631 / -1.369
Back-Nine Average (2024):	35.923 / -0.077