

The Ascendant presented by Blue
(17th of 26 events on 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Schedule)
[Tournament Media Site](#) | [Interview Transcripts](#)

Berthoud, Colorado
 TPC Colorado

July 10-13, 2025
 Par/Yards: 72 / 8,015

Points: 500 (winner)
 Purse: \$1,000,000 / \$180,00 (winner)

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, July 13, 2025

Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 89. Wind E/SE 6-12 mph, gusts of 18 mph.

Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Neal Shipley	68	71	67	64	270 (-18)
T2	Jorge Fernández Valdés	70	68	65	68	271 (-17)
	Kevin Dougherty	69	70	63	69	271 (-17)
T4	Four Players Tied					274 (-14)

Charting the Champion (stats updated through tournament)

Category	Neal Shipley
Age	24
2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 4
Starts – Wins – Top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour in 2025	16-2-4
Starts – Wins – Top-10s in Korn Ferry Tour Career	16-2-4
Starts – Wins – Top-10s at The Ascendant	1-1-1

Neal Shipley (1st/-18)

- Earns second Korn Ferry Tour title at 24 years, 6 months, 20 days of age, posting a one-stroke victory over Jorge Fernández Valdés and Kevin Dougherty
- Previously won the 2025 LECOM Suncoast Classic in April, defeating S.T. Lee in a playoff after beginning the final round four strokes behind the 54-hole leader
- Should Shipley earn a third victory this season, he will earn an immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR via the Three-Victory Promotion
- Earns 500 points and moves to No. 4 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List
- Began the final round seven strokes behind 54-hole leader Ross Steelman, marking the largest final-round comeback victory since the 2024 Astara Chile Classic presented by Scotiabank (Taylor Dickson/trailed by seven strokes, won in playoff)
- Becomes the first Korn Ferry Tour winner to begin the final round seven-plus strokes behind the 54-hole leader and win in regulation since the 2020 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Woodhouse (Seth Reeves/trailed by eight strokes, won by one stroke)
- Closes in 8-under 64, tying Austin Smotherman for the low round of Sunday's final round at TPC Colorado with eight birdies, an eagle at the par-4 sixth, and a double bogey at the par-5 13th
- Makes birdie on his first three holes en route to 7-under 29 on the front nine, and makes closing birdie at the par-4 18th, which was the toughest hole relative to par for the tournament and yielded just seven birdies in the final round
- Also makes birdie at the par-3 second, which only yielded three birdies and was the toughest hole relative to par in the final round
- Turned professional in 2024 after three seasons at James Madison University (2019-22) and two seasons at Ohio State University (2022-24)
- Runner-up finisher at the 2023 U.S. Amateur Championship (won by two-time PGA TOUR winner Nick Dunlap), which was contested at Cherry Hills Country Club in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

- Earned low amateur honors at the 2024 Masters Tournament and 2024 U.S. Open, becoming the first player since Viktor Hovland (2019) to earn low amateur honors at both events in the same year

Additional Notes

- Korn Ferry Tour Class of 2023 graduate **Kevin Dougherty** (T2/-17) logs his fifth runner-up finish in 151 career starts on Tour (most recent: 2023 Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard)
- Korn Ferry Tour winner **Jorge Fernández Valdés** (T2/-17) records his first top-10 on Tour since the 2023 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Hiland Dairy Foods/T7
- Three-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Pierceson Coody** (T4/-14) logs his Tour-leading seventh top-10 finish of the 2025 season, as well as his fourth consecutive top-10
- Three-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Austin Smotherman** (T4/-14), who earlier this week became the first player declared #TOURBound for the 2026 PGA TOUR season, strengthens his hold on the No. 1 position on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List with his sixth top-10 of the season; he is one of four players with at least six top-10s this season (Pierceson Coody/7, Hank Lebioda/6, Mitchell Meissner/6)
- **Ross Steelman** (T4/-14), who carried a three-stroke lead into the final round, closes in 3-over 75, tied for the second-highest score recorded in the final round; he logs the second-highest finish of his Korn Ferry Tour career (2024 The Bahamas Golf Classic at Atlantis Paradise Island/3rd) and his fifth top-10 of the 2025 season
- **Cooper Dossey** (T4/-14), who finished No. 76 on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, logs a career-high finish in his 44th start on Tour
- **Zach Bauchou** (T4/-14), who finished No. 34 on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List for fully exempt status this season, records a season-high finish off the strength of a third consecutive 4-under 68
- Conditional members **Marcus Plunkett** (T9/-13), **Chase Sienkiewicz** (T19/-10), and **Owen Stamper** (T19/-10), as well as open qualifier **Connor Jones** (T24/-9), a Colorado State University and University of Denver alum, all gained entry to the next Korn Ferry Tour event – Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Hiland Dairy Foods – via their top-25 finishes
- Open qualifier and 18-year-old professional **Blades Brown** (60th/-3) earns five points, giving him 222.667 points for the 2025 season; he still needs 15.051 points to earn Special Temporary Membership (237.718 points) for the remainder of the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour season