



## Pre-Tournament Notes

### Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health

July 31-August 3, 2025 • Ogden, Utah  
Ogden Golf & Country Club • Par 70 • 7,097 yards  
156 players • Purse: \$1,000,000 (\$180,000/Winner)  
Reigning Champion: Karl Vilips



#### THIS WEEK ON TOUR

- The Korn Ferry Tour season continues with the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health, the 20th event of the 26-event season.
- Ogden Golf & Country Club is hosting the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health for the first time. This week marks the 34th playing of the Utah Championship, which was first played in 1990.
- Johnny Keefe** earned his second Korn Ferry Tour title at last week's NV5 Invitational, reclaimed the No. 1 position on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and followed Austin Smotherman as the second player declared #TOURBound, signaling they have secured PGA TOUR membership for the 2026 season. Keefe, who previously won the Veritex Bank Championship in April, rose to No. 56 in the latest Official World Golf Ranking -- a meteoric rise from No. 1,654, his initial ranking following his professional debut on PGA TOUR Americas in June 2024.
- Keefe's rapid ascendance of the PGA TOUR Pathways system began after five seasons at Baylor University (2019-24); he capped his collegiate career with a T11 finish at the 2024 NCAA Championship, which propelled him to a No. 25 finish -- the final position awarding performance benefits -- on the 2024 PGA TOUR University Ranking. Keefe earned membership for the inaugural PGA TOUR Americas season in 2024 via his PGA TOUR University finish, and he finished No. 1 in the 2024 Fortinet Cup standings off the strength of a win at the 2024 Manitoaba Open and four runner-up finishes. In 30 professional starts, Keefe has three wins, six runner-up finishes, and a total of 13 top-five finishes and 26 made cuts.
- Karl Vilips, winner of the 2024 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health, is one of three rookie winners on the PGA TOUR this season. Vilips earned his first TOUR title at the 2025 Puerto Rico Open. Two other PGA TOUR winners -- Matt McCarty (2024 Bank of Utah Championship) and William Mouw (2025 ISCO Championship) -- finished in the top five at last year's Utah Championship, with McCarty finishing T2 and Mouw finishing solo fourth.

#### 2025 KEY STORYLINES

- Nine international players currently stand in the top 20 of the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List: No. 5 **S.H. Kim** (South Korea), No. 9 **Emilio Gonzalez** (Mexico), No. 10 **Kensei Hirata** (Japan), No. 12 **Sudarshan Yellamaraju** (Canada), No. 13 **Jeremy Gandon** (France), No. 14 **Pontus Nyholm** (Sweden), No. 16 **S.T. Lee** (South Korea), No. 19 **Myles Creighton** (Canada), and No. 20 **Alvaro Ortiz** (Mexico).
- Of the current top 20 players on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, 13 would be earning PGA TOUR membership for the first time.
- Josh Teater**, winner of the 2009 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health, stands No. 15 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List off the strength of his victory earlier this season at The Panama Championship. Teater went 15 years, 4 months, and 20 days between his two Korn Ferry Tour victories, which marked the second-largest gap between wins in Tour history.
- 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, where he missed the cut in his tournament debut.
- Canadian **Myles Creighton**, who stands No. 19 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, 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.
- 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 T40 finish (to eclipse the Special Temporary Membership threshold of 237.718 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	Neal Shipley [2] (-18 / 270)
July 17-20	Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Hiland Dairy Foods	Chandler Blanchet (-27 / 261)
July 24-27	NV5 Invitational	Johnny Keefe [2] (-26 / 258)
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 12 PGA TOUR winners with 28 career victories, highlighted by five-time TOUR winners **Ben Crane** and **Nick Watney**.
- The field features 46 Korn Ferry Tour winners who have combined for 70 career victories, led by four-time Korn Ferry Tour winner **Robby Shelton**.
- Five players in the field are in the top 200 of the Official World Golf Ranking: **Johnny Keefer** (No. 56), **Kensei Hirata** (No. 134), **S.H. Kim** (No. 143), **Trace Crowe** (No. 187), and **Taylor Montgomery** (No. 200).
- With a victory this week, **Johnny Keefer** would earn an immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR via the Three-Victory Promotion, last accomplished by Matt McCarty (2024).
- Five past champions of the Utah Championship are in this week's field: **Roger Sloan** (2023), **Andrew Kozan** (2022), **Joshua Creel** (2021), **Cameron Champ** (2018), and **Josh Teater** (2009).
- Players in the field with ties to the state of Utah include conditional member and sponsor exemption **Connor Howe** (Ogden native), conditional member **Peter Kuest** (BYU alum), Korn Ferry Tour winner **Daniel Summerhays** (Kaysville resident, BYU alum), and **Preston Summerhays** (Farmington native).
- Brendan Valdes** (No. 90 on 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List) leads the eight 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**, **Preston Summerhays**, **Brendan Valdes**, and **Jackson Van Paris**.

#### PAST CHAMPIONS

<u>Year</u> ..... <u>Player (Score)</u>	<u>Year</u> ..... <u>Player (Score)</u>
2024.....Karl Vilips (-25 / 259)	2006.....Craig Kanada (-16 / 272)
2023.....Roger Sloan (-24 / 260)	2005.....Garrett Willis (-13 / 275)
2022.....Andrew Kozan (-21 / 263)	2004.....Brett Wetterich (-16 / 272)
2021.....Joshua Creel (-24 / 260)	2003.....Zach Johnson (-21 / 267)
2020.....Kyle Jones # (-20 / 264)	2002.....Arron Oberholser (-14 / 202)
2019.....Kris Ventura # (-14 / 270)	2001.....David Sutherland (-16 / 272)
2018.....Cameron Champ (-24 / 260)	2000.....Andy Morse (-19 / 269)
2017.....Brice Garnett (-21 / 263)	1999.....Carl Paulson (-22 / 266)
2016.....Nicholas Lindheim (-15 / 269)	1996.....Michael Christie (-20 / 196)
2015.....Patton Kizzire # (-19 / 269)	1995.....Glen Hnatiuk # (-13 / 203)
2014.....Andres Gonzales (-21 / 263)	1994.....Chris Perry (-11 / 205)
2013.....Steven Alker # (-22 / 262)	1993.....Sean Murphy (-12 / 204)
2012.....Doug LaBelle II (-15 / 269)	1992.....Jeff Woodland (-14 / 202)
2011.....J.J. Killeen (-22 / 262)	1991.....Ted Tryba (-14 / 202)
2010.....Michael Putnam (-18 / 266)	1990.....John Daly (-13 / 203)
2009.....Josh Teater (-20 / 264)	
2008.....Brendon Todd (-22 / 262)	
2007.....Franklin Langham (-20 / 264)	

# - denotes playoff victory

#### KORN FERRY TOUR POINTS LIST

Upon conclusion of the 26-event Korn Ferry Tour season, the top 20 players on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List will earn 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](#)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Player</u> .....	<u>Points</u>
<b><i>1</i></b>	<b><i>Johnny Keefer</i></b> .....	<b><i>1,948</i></b>
<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>Austin Smotherman</i></b> .....	<b><i>1,845</i></b>
3	Neal Shipley .....	1,530
4	Hank Lebioda.....	1,391
5	S.H. Kim .....	1,313
6	Davis Chatfield.....	1,126
7	Pierceson Coody .....	1,107
8	Chandler Blanchet.....	1,067
9	Emilio Gonzalez.....	978
10	Kensei Hirata .....	892
11	Mitchell Meissner.....	890
12	Sudarshan Yellamaraju .....	851
13	Jeremy Gandon.....	835
14	Pontus Nyholm.....	828
15	Josh Teater.....	826
16	S.T. Lee.....	826
17	Trace Crowe .....	808
18	Justin Suh.....	718
19	Myles Creighton .....	694
20	Alvaro Ortiz.....	683
21	Logan McAllister.....	677
22	Kyle Westmoreland.....	646
23	Adrien Dumont de Chassart.....	633
24	Jeffrey Kang.....	628
25	Rick Lamb.....	616
26	Bryson Nimmer .....	609
27	Ross Steelman.....	604
28	Zach Bauchou.....	593
29	Cole Sherwood.....	591
30	Christo Lamprecht.....	565

#### TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

<b>Low 18-Hole Score:</b>	59	Will Wilcox (2013 / Round 4)
<b>Low 36-Hole Score:</b>	125	Cameron Champ (2018)
<b>Low 54-Hole Score:</b>	191	Jim Knous (2018)
<b>Low 72-Hole Score:</b>	259	Karl Vilips (2024)
<b>Largest Margin of Victory:</b>	6	Carl Paulson (1999), Brendon Todd (2008)
<b>Playoffs:</b>	5	Last: 2020 (Kyle Jones defeated Paul Haley II and Daniel Summerhays)

