



# Visit Knoxville Open (12th of 26 events on 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Schedule) Tournament Media Site | Interview Transcripts

Knoxville, Tennessee	May 22 – 25, 2025	Points: 500 (winner)
Holston Hills Country Club	Par/Yards: 71 / 7,267	Purse: \$1,000,000 / \$180,00 (winner)

## Final-Round Notes – Sunday, May 25, 2025

Weather: Mostly cloudy. High of 77. Variable winds at 4-8 mph

#### **Leaderboard**

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Pontus Nyholm *	65	66	68	66	265 (-19)
2	Johnny Keefer	66	70	64	65	265 (-19)
Т3	Jeffrey Kang	68	71	63	64	266 (-18)
Т3	Dylan Menante	67	70	60	69	266 (-18)
5	Ross Steelman	69	68	65	65	267 (-17)

\* - Won with eagle on first hole (par-5 No. 18) of sudden-death playoff

### Charting the Champion (stats updated through tournament)

Category	Pontus Nyholm
Age	27
2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List	No. 5
Starts – Wins – Top-10s on Korn Ferry Tour in 2025	12-1-2
Starts – Wins – Top-10s in Korn Ferry Tour Career	88-1-7
Starts – Wins – Top-10s at Visit Knoxville Open	4-1-1

### Pontus Nyholm (1st/-19)

- Defeats Johnny Keefer with an eagle on the first hole (par-5 No. 18) of a sudden-death playoff to capture his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory
- Carded a final round 5-under 66 with four birdies (Nos. 3, 7, 9, 15) and an eagle (No. 5) against one bogey (No. 18) to finish at 19-under 265 for the tournament
- Becomes the sixth player representing Sweden to win on the Korn Ferry Tour (most recent: Tim Widing/2024 Veritex Bank Championship)
- Follows Sudarshan Yellamaraju (Canada/The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club), Jeremy Gandon (France/Club Car Championship at The Landings Golf & Athletic Club) and S.H. Kim (South Korea/AdventHealth Championship) as the fourth international winner on Tour this season
- Trailed 54-hole leader S.H. Kim by five strokes entering the final round, marking the second victory by a player who began the final round five-plus strokes behind the 54-hole leader of the 2025 season (Josh Teater/six strokes/Panama Championship)
- Becomes the 10th first-time winner on Tour this season and at 27 years, 3 months, 15 days is the ninth winner under the age of 30 this year
- Made the cut in all four career starts at the Visit Knoxville Open (previous best finish: T14/2024)
- Finished No. 40 on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List behind nine top-25s and three top-10 finishes to earn fully exempt status for the 2025 season
- Previously, finished No. 69 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List with four top-25 finishes and one top 10
- First earned Korn Ferry Tour membership ahead of the 2022 season via T29 finish at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
- A Gavle, Sweden native who played collegiately at Campbell University prior to turning professional in 2021

# Additional Notes

- Korn Ferry Tour winner **Johnny Keefer** (2nd/-19), who competed in last week's PGA Championship at Quail Hollow, logs his second runner-up finish of the 2025 campaign (T2/The Panama Championship), matching S.H. Kim for the most on Tour
- Keefer rises to No. 1 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, supplanting S.H. Kim, who overtook the top spot from Hank Lebioda following his win at the AdventhHealth Championship
- Jeffrey Kang (T3/-18), who began the year with conditional membership after a No. 81 finish on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, cards a final round bogey-free 7-under 64 for the best result of his career in what was his 40th start on Tour (previous best: T6/2024 Club Car Championship)
- Sponsor exemption **Dylan Menante** (T3/-18), who broke the course record with an 11-under 60 in the third round, logs his first career top-five finish in what was his eighth start on the Korn Ferry Tour (previous best: T18/Tulum Championship at PGA Riviera Maya)
- Third-year member **Ross Steelman** (5th/-17), who finished No. 56 on the 2024 Points List, records his best finish of the season (previous best: T6/Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard) and third top 10 in what was his ninth start; logged two top-10 finishes all of last season in 23 starts
- 54-hole leader **S.H. Kim** (T6/-15), who captured his first career victory last week at the AdventHealth Championship, turns in a final round 4-over 75 for his fifth top 10 of the year, matching Hank Lebioda for the most on Tour
- Four players secured starts at next week's UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH via top-25 finishes
  - Knoxville, Tennessee native Ryan Hall (T6/-15), who competed via a sponsor exemption this week, posts the best finish of his career in what was his 30th Korn Ferry Tour start (previous best: T10/2022 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Woodhouse)
  - Korn Ferry Tour winner Andrew Kozan (T6/-15), who held a share of the first-round lead, records his first top 10 since the 2023 Visit Knoxville Open (T10) and logs a top-25 finish for the second week in a row (T21/AdeventHealth Championship)
  - Conditional member and University of Tennessee alum Bryce Lewis (T17/-12), who was the last player in the field this week, records the best result of his career in his eighth start on the Korn Ferry Tour (previous: T25/2025 LECOM Suncoast Classic)
  - Open qualifier Mark Lawrence Jr. (T17/-12), who made his first career cut this week in his second Korn Ferry Tour start, cards a 4-under 67 to secure a top-25 finish