

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
March 8, 2025



KARL VILIPS (-18)

Q. Karl, 6 under today, 18 under and solo atop the leaderboard. How are you feeling after 54 holes?

KARL VILIPS: Feeling pretty good with the position I'm in. I wish my stomach felt a little bit better, but it is what it is. You've got one more day, just battle through it.

Q. What's going on with the stomach?

KARL VILIPS: I've lost a lot of weight this week. I don't know what's going on, just like it feels like it's shrinking on me.

Q. A handful of guys this week said they've played here in college events before. Have you been to this course before?

KARL VILIPS: No, first time.

Q. What's your take so far on Grand Reserve?

KARL VILIPS: I think it's nice. I think if you just put it in play it's pretty simple from there, I think you can give yourself a lot of good looks. Lift, clean and place was nice the first two days, wish we had it today, I had a few mud balls. But it's fun, you can make plenty of birdies but you can also make some mistakes if you're not concentrating.

Q. Only third start this season. Did you kind of feel like your game was in a position to be in this spot in only the third start this year?

KARL VILIPS: Definitely. I think the first week out in Mexico was a little rusty coming back off of three months and last week it felt like I played really well, I just had a bad putting day, and then this week it just feels like I'm rolling that over with a little bit better putting performance so far.

Q. You mentioned being out for a few months there. Can you kind of talk us through the injury, what you're dealing with?

KARL VILIPS: Yeah. I was in Australia for the Oz Open and had a nagging back pain going on through there and decided to get an MRI. Got diagnosed with a stress fracture, which was unfortunate, not good news when you want to start the season. But ended up just being a disc bulge after reevaluation so we were able to get back on the horse a little sooner than expected and start in Mexico instead of Valspar. So I missed two events, but glad I got

these ones in.

Q. What was the rehab like? Was there any sort of procedure or was it just kind of physical therapy?

KARL VILIPS: I wasn't doing anything for a month probably, just sitting in a room, housekeeping. Then once I start getting back into it, it was a pretty light load, functional movements. Then I think probably two weeks before Mexico I started lifting weights again, swinging driver, and I think probably five days before Mexico was back to full speed.

Q. Your amateur career, decorated. Korn Ferry, you won last year, and you're doing well on Tour this year. How challenging was that month stretch where you can't do anything, you can't play the game that you've been training to do?

KARL VILIPS: It was tough. There were courses that I was looking forward to playing to start the season. It was pretty tough news to hear back last year, especially when you're excited to get your card and you can't play the first few events. But dealt with it, it is what it is, and just tried to get ready for when I could play.

Q. Are you surprised at all? Like last year with Korn Ferry Tour you won in your fourth start, off to a hot start now, you're looking like right now the leader heading into the final round in your third start here. Do you feel surprised at all?

KARL VILIPS: I don't feel that surprised. I feel like my game's gotten a lot better over the years. I think playing so much out of college and on the Korn Ferry and then just a lot of competitive golf, it just has sharpened me up a lot. I've been really true to the process and seeing it pay off so far at the moment is nice.

Q. I believe you made only 10 starts last year on Korn Ferry Tour, so not very long, not even a full season under your belt. What were some of your takeaways turning pro in those 10 starts that you learned that you can kind of bring into your first season on Tour?

KARL VILIPS: Yeah, I think starting on Korn Ferry, how to eliminate the big miss, just find something I can put in play. I think limiting the amount of bogeys and mistakes I was making. Still kind of rusty coming into the week making a lot of mistakes at Cognizant and Mexico. I think the same mindset applies out here, you're going to make plenty of birdies and you've just got to limit the amount of mistakes you make. How true I am on the golf course and the positions I put myself in, it is what it is, but I try my best to do that.

Q. Another Stanford alum, Joseph Bramlett, just one shot above him on the leaderboard. Obviously I'm sure you've met him before. Do you have a good relationship with Joe?

KARL VILIPS: Met him a few times at Siebel, which is our practice facility back at Stanford.

Haven't played with him before or out here. Good to see him at the top, way to represent, but just a few light interactions back at school.