

KORN FERRY TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP
presented by United Leasing & Finance

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
October 10, 2025

CALEB VanARRAGON



Q. How does it feel shooting some steady rounds and not getting to shoot 63, 62 in the first couple rounds to either make the cut or be in contention?

CALEB VanARRAGON: Yeah, no, it's definitely nice. It takes a little bit of the pressure off knowing that you can make bogeys and still, like, be in contention. It definitely helps keep you calm if you hit a bad shot or have a bad hole or even a bad couple of holes. I think I was 2-over through 7 yesterday, and I was like, that's fine. It's not even that bad. It's a different mindset, but at the same time, any hole out here if you hit a bad tee shot or a bad iron, you're looking at double bogey. You definitely have to stay very focused, but it definitely takes a little bit of the pressure off trying to make birdies all the time.

Q. I was just kind of looking into your path here the last couple years. Did you not have any actual status last year going into this year?

CALEB VanARRAGON: I had absolutely no status, no. I was a decent college golfer, but I played at Valpo, which was a really small school, so I didn't have PGA TOUR U or anything. Last summer I played on the Dakotas Tour. I Monday qualified actually into one of these tournaments in Omaha, but otherwise I didn't really play in anything. Just mini-tour stuff. Then I made it through Q-school, made it all the way through, got my first eight starts out here, and fortunately had a good couple of tournaments early on.

Q. I was looking at Q-school, going to that. I saw you opened with 77 the first round of final stage and shot a 66 that final day to get into the Top 40. What do you remember most about that week and the roller coaster of emotions that week?

CALEB VanARRAGON: I would actually back up one week to second stage. At second stage with five holes to go in my third round, I was eight shots out of position, and I played my last five holes 5-under par and then I played my last seven holes 3-under par on the final round, including on the 18th hole. I hit my drive in the water and then saved par to make it through by one -- like on the number. So that was wild.

Then it was a crazy story again the next week. Started off with a really rough round and was able to hold it together with a couple of near even-par rounds if I remember at Sawgrass.

It was weird because that week it was kind of the same way I feel this week; I had just come off a summer playing on the Dakotas Tour. I didn't expect to have any type of Tour status. I felt like just being at final stage was a huge bonus. I remember feeling not very nervous, weirdly, and that's kind of the way I feel this week. I know there's a Tour card on the line, but I'm so grateful that I have full Korn Ferry status for next year. That's what I've dreamed of my entire life, and if I happen to play well next year, I could get a Tour card then.

I'm just grateful to be here. If I get a Tour card, that could be a huge bonus, but it's all icing on the cake from here it feels like.

Q. Going into that event last year, was it tough to know what any schedule looked like? What have been the biggest adjustments on and off the course for you preparing and living life as a pro?

CALEB VanARRAGON: I think just understanding how to manage my way through a tournament week, understanding what type of practice I need to be doing, how -- just when I should be playing my practice rounds, all the little things that you don't really think about that go into making sure that you're feeling fresh and more importantly really dialed in at tournament time. That's been the biggest adjustment. I've never played four-round tournaments before this year. That's been probably the biggest adjustment.

Q. Are there any veterans or people that helped you along as you started out the season?

CALEB VanARRAGON: Yeah, I got a mentor from the mentor program out here, John VanDerLaan. He's helped me out. I've played some practice rounds and stuff with him. My caddie has been good. This is his first year, too, so we've been learning a lot together I would say. Then my swing coach, Luke Benoit, he's been really helpful for me. He's been my coach since I was 13. He's taught me basically everything I know about how to be a good golfer. Those three guys have definitely helped.

Q. I know a lot of guys out here say there was no backup plan, it was this or nothing. But I know you had a Masters in college. Did you have a backup plan?

CALEB VanARRAGON: Oh, absolutely. That definitely also took the pressure off of me these past couple of years because I love golf, but when I was in college I took school at least as seriously. I have two undergraduate degrees in biology and statistics and I have a Master's Degree in data analytics basically. I did a bunch of research when I was in college and I really liked that. I always thought if the golf thing didn't work out, I'd probably go back and get my Ph.D. somewhere. I would really like that. My dad was a professor for years, and I think that would be really fun, too.

It definitely takes a little pressure off knowing that this isn't the only thing I can do with my life.

Q. What did your dad teach?

CALEB VanARRAGON: He was a philosophy professor and now he's a dean at Bethel University.

Q. Do you talk a lot of philosophy with him?

CALEB VanARRAGON: A little bit. It's very technical. Like you need to -- I've tried reading his dissertation, his Ph.D. dissertation, and it's very, very dense. But it's really cool, and it's very, very deep, I would say.

Q. Did you ever think about what you would have got your Ph.D. in?

CALEB VanARRAGON: Yeah, I probably would have gone into biostatistics. It's this branch of statistics that deals with large datasets pertaining to biology. I know during COVID all the

people who were doing modeling what the disease growth was going to look like, those were all biostatisticians. That was definitely something I was interested in doing. Just research and being a professor and teaching, that whole thing always really appealed to me. I always really liked academia, but I like golf more.

Q. Did you look at the points listing for the week and break down what you needed to do to have a chance?

CALEB VanARRAGON: I knew I had to win, yeah. I know I need to win and a couple of other things to go well for me, like a few people to not pass me in the points list. But I didn't really go too deep into that because I just knew I needed to win, and I figured that was a bit of a long shot.

Q. I know you were worried about the top-50 cutoff.

CALEB VanARRAGON: I was, yeah. I did know that. I figured like top 5, 6, 7, something like that would probably get it done for me. Yeah, I would probably go back to second stage, honestly, just to get another tournament rep in the winter. That obviously would be really nice to get top 50. But it wouldn't be the end of the world if I didn't.

Q. You mentioned being a stats guy. Being here where it's a lot different of a course than you see anywhere else on the Korn Ferry, there's a lot of elevation and stuff, is it a fun challenge when you're a numbers guy trying to calculate everything?

CALEB VanARRAGON: Yeah, definitely. There's a lot more thinking involved this week in terms of deciding on targets and all that. I definitely -- it's one that keeps you mentally engaged through every shot. It's never, like, oh, just hit wedge at the pin or whatever. You've really got to think through everything about how you want the ball to be flying and where your target is and all that. So I definitely enjoy that challenge.