

VISIT KNOXVILLE OPEN
ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
May 15, 2022



ANDERS ALBERTSON (-20)

Q. You are the 2022 Visit Knoxville champion. Walk me through how that feels.

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Very weird, but very cool. I'm just so thankful for a great week. I felt like I've been playing pretty well this year, but obviously haven't had a result quite like this. Yeah, I've had an incredible amount of people help me and I'm just so grateful for the team that I have and just incredible result this week. So exciting.

Q. Second Korn Ferry Tour win, first in 2018. How does this compare with that first win?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, thankfully I have an off week to kind of reflect, but I think right now I feel more in balance like I felt like all week and been coming for a while now, so I think I'm able to receive it more like a normal event and not something that's like hugely disruptive.

It's obviously a different points list position than I have been in a while, so that will be nice to kind of digest and look at. Yeah, thankfully, like I said, I have an off week. Like I just need some time to figure out what I feel and what's the next move. I know I'll be in Chicago and look forward to getting back to it then, but also really excited to get home and be with my wife and my dog and have a little bit of rest.

Q. That par save on 17, walk me through what was going through your mind, and did you know what that putt meant at that moment?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, yeah, I really tried all week to not think about score. Carl played so well all day, like I couldn't not know where he was at. Yeah, I hit one really poor tee shot all week and it was that hole on 17, so kind of got out of position. I didn't want to go into 18 tied with Carl because he hits it farther than I do. He's probably going to have a chance to have a shorter club in there, so I felt like I needed a little cushion.

Yeah, it was one of the first putts of length I think I made all day. It was hard to -- these things are so fast and so much break, it was nice to make one in a big moment like that. I was very aware and I for some reason walked it in, which is unusual, so whatever. Yeah, it was fun.

Q. You not only won, but you led after 18, 36, 54. That's a huge accomplishment in itself. Can you just talk me through how it feels? Are you proud of yourself for what you've done this week?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, like I said, what you said, I haven't won in four years and to be leading every day to kind of be looking face to face with all that pressure or all like those extra thoughts that come with that for four straight days was a challenge that I was I guess embracing. Like I said, I think for whatever reason -- I know the reason, like I've got a lot of people helping me, but I think I've been more balanced to be able to handle that as opposed to have it take me out.

Yeah, my mental coach, Ina Kim-Schaad, has just been incredible all year and the last two years we worked together. Just had a great game plan that we've been working on for a long time. It was really kind of cemented it and I could fall back on that when it was like this where I was leading and I didn't really have to figure out how to handle it, I kind of stayed the same. I haven't had that before, so I'm really grateful for her and her help. There's just a huge team, so I'm so thankful for them.

Q. I know you've been working on a lot of things outside of your game. Do you feel like this week you can say it came together for you?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, yeah. You know, it's -- yeah, it's hard to put your finger on like where it all happened and where the change happens, but yeah, I received help this year from coach Mike Adams, who's really, this week was really helpful because he helped me learn how to hit high. These greens are so firm that I don't know if I would have been able to compete the same way without being able to hold some of these, so that was huge.

Ina and my long-time Coach Jeff Patton golf-wise as people have been just huge for me. Yeah, it might add some home course advantage for my friend this week, he caddied for me -- Bo, thank you. He caddied on the back nine so gave me all the UT advice.

Yeah, the head coach Brennan Webb allowed me -- I don't know if I'm allowed to say it -- to come out to their facility and practice almost every day, so I had some really great facilities to work on my game this week. Like I said, my body felt great the last two weeks. I had a back injury that I haven't really been able to do everything that I would like. Finally, I don't know if it was the heat or whatever, but it loosened up and I could practice. Yeah, it was just an incredible week from Monday to Sunday. Really thankful and yeah, it's just kind of still surreal.

Q. Was your mindset on 14 tee, walking to 14 tee down by two? Was it like I lost this or like were you comfortable?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, so the biggest thing for me is like bringing all my focus and strength to play the course and not who I'm playing with. Yeah, I looked over to Walker pretty much the whole back nine and was just kind of like saying let's go. Like it doesn't matter, I'm not afraid of making a mistake, I'm not afraid of losing anything, I'm not afraid of hitting a bad shot, I'm not afraid of anything, just I'm going to accept whatever happens and continue to like attack the course. That's like an aggression that I haven't had before, but it's

only over the ball.

Then to just relax and be relational, look around and enjoy the time, playing the course as opposed to Carl, it was really what allowed me to hit some really good shots that mentally I think I got in my own way in years past in that situation. I was thinking too much about the board and what was at stake. Just really sticking to the game plan of what we designed Monday through Wednesday and being all in on that.

Q. The 18th at Lincolnland, you almost holed it out, but that one, I don't even know which one was tougher considering the situation. Obviously a tougher course here. How do the two approach shots compare?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: On 18 here? Yeah, that was crazy. We had 201 front and 206 flag and it was off the left and I hit 7-iron, which I carry 7-iron 184, so that was 17 yards farther. It landed right on the front edge and yeah, it was perfect. It was a risky shot because it's so steep that if it comes out short or 50 yards down there, but Walker made a great call on that and we had 6 and 7 in my hand and went with 7 and was very happy to get up here and see that it was pin high and not over the green. Yeah, that was weirdly, I think that one was harder than Lincolnland just with the consequence of coming up short like that and knowing that Carl was back here most likely going to make a birdie already. Yeah, I'm very pleased and thankful that one ended up on the green.

Q. They always say the first one's the sweeter, but being four years, is this one and kind of what's gone through the last four years, is this maybe sweeter?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, you know, I can say that like just the feel of the people around here, like when I won in Illinois I was by myself with my caddie. Just in that reason alone I think it's super nice to be here with people that I love and enjoy spending time with. Yeah, it's definitely a different feel and I'll be processing more in the days to come.

Q. We were talking to your mom and she said this is the first time she's come out to watch you in a while. What does it mean to kind of have her support and have her here to see this?

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, so sweet. I have three sisters and she's very busy taking care of everyone's lives like that. Yeah, I guess it's a three-hour drive, three-and-a-half-hour drive, so very thankful for her to be able to make that. Obviously didn't plan necessarily on winning, but that's nice, a nice surprise for everyone.

Q. She said this is like a Mother's Day gift.

ANDERS ALBERTSON: Yeah, I'll take it, I'll take it. I'll go with that, yeah. Thank you.