

**STEVEN ALKER**

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**Q. Obviously a lot of golf left, but you have to like where you stand at the end of round 1 trying to defend.**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, it was a nice start. A lot of birdies today. Had a couple of kind of sloppy bogeys. Yeah, just pleasing to get that start. Rolled in a couple of nice ones there at the start, a couple of birdies, so kind of got me on a roll and kind of settled me down. That was pleasing.

**Q. How did Ben do today?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** He did fantastic. This really is his first competitive round. We've done some fun rounds, but he was great. The ball was always clean. We had some spot-on yardages. He actually did some yardages today. It was great. Yeah, he did very, very well.

**Q. What does it mean to have the family of Sam Workman here today?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, a whole lot. We've got a bunch today. We're going to have even more tomorrow, some of the Beeville crowd. The ribbons are a nice touch, and great to have some of the family out, so good support today.

**Q. The wind in the afternoon, did that make this course a little trickier?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, the Woodlands here, it just swirls. Trying to pick some clubs, I was in between clubs on No. 8 there, my 17, and made bogey there. Didn't have a very good shot. Yeah, it's just tricky around here. It's just picking your spots and you've got to pick the right club, otherwise you become unstuck pretty easily.

**Q. (On whether he fed off last year's victory)**

**STEVEN ALKER:** No, it kind of just kept me going. I knew the golf course was a little bit softer today and was gettable. Kind of fed off a little bit of last year, just hitting the lines off the tee and shots into the greens. Even some of the putts, all day I was just kind of learning even more about the golf course and trying to take a bit more from last year.

**Q. When you're playing a course that's gettable, doable, whatever you want to call it, you know there's birdies out there, is that when you kind of think, I've got to make birdies?**



**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, kind of aggressive mode. At the start of the round, I just went out like, let's go. I knew things were soft and kind of gettable. Yeah, just had to get a fast start, and I just kept it going, which was nice.

**Q. What's it like to be playing in a tournament when you are the defending champion?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, there's always a little bit of added pressure there, kind of in the back. You're trying not to try any harder, but it's just there.

As I said, I got a nice start. Made a couple of birdies the first two holes and settled me down, so it was pleasing, and I didn't really think about it. I just went out there and played golf today.

