

STEVEN ALKER

Q. What were the conditions like today?

STEVEN ALKER: A little soft and soggy, and then we had the wind. It was kind of fun, you just had to hit shots out there, so it was great.

Q. How much fun was it today?

STEVEN ALKER: Actually, it was fun. I'm from New Zealand, so we get the wind, and it was a little softer out there today. You just kind of had to work your golf ball. Just had to play it and hit the spots, and I feel like I did that pretty well most of the day.

Q. Is that where you developed that flat --

STEVEN ALKER: Especially off the tee, little runners, and then you had to flight with the wind today, those cross wind and into the wind holes, just kind of flatten it out a little bit. The last couple holes, going downwind, now you're trying to flight it up. I kind of stumbled in the clubhouse a little bit, but just pleased to finish at 3-under. It was a pretty good score.

Q. Final round today, you get to play with Ernie. What memories will you have going into tomorrow from last year because of where you're at and everybody that's going to be out here?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I think just knowing that you can get it done on this golf course. I like the golf course. That always helps. But depends on the wind tomorrow as to tee shots what you're going to have off the tee and what you have going into the greens.

Yeah, just take what I can, if I can conserve a shot here or there.

But I think more so the greens this year. I've got used to the greens and the better lines and the speed is a bit better. Really pleased with that.

Q. You talked about the crowd that's been following you and Sam's family --

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, great support. We had a nice dinner last night. I think there's some more folks from Beeville and Silsbee, so it was a good crowd out there, had good support.

Q. You've had success out here last year and this year. Is it a combination of that you're playing really well and you like the golf course, that it suits you?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, a combination for sure. It felt good, and just tried to tidy up a few things from last week. I didn't play great last week, so just tidied a few things up. I



got the speed of the greens and hit better iron shots. That's kind of contributed to better play this week.

Q. Is it always a lot better being chased than being the hunter?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, for sure. I'm not sure what my lead is, but I think I'm a couple up, three up or something. It's better than being tied or one behind. I'll just keep playing my game and trying to stay as aggressive as I can.

Q. Is it almost easier to be aggressive if you are a stroke or two behind going into the last round, or do you always like kind of leading and knowing that the pack is chasing you?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I think -- hey, if you've got three shots up -- it's not like I'm trying to win for the first time. It's maybe a little different. Three up is great. Chasing, as well, that can go either way. You push too hard or you're just aggressive and it all works out. It can kind of go both ways.
Yeah, I like being three up at the moment. That's fun.

Q. I know you won here last season. I don't remember the context of where you were going into the final round last year.

STEVEN ALKER: I believe I was tied, and still maybe only one ahead with like eight to go and then made a nice run. The back nine has been kind to me last year, so hopefully that trend continues.

Q. When you say you like being three up, that's better than being tied, that's speaking from experience?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I think most likely, having won before. You just take the experiences from the wins and just try and put it into play.

Q. How is your caddie holding up?

STEVEN ALKER: He's doing great. He was even better today. He was on the ball -- we talked about clubs. We actually joked a little bit more today because I tried to loosen him up. He was a little bit nervous yesterday, and I got him to loosen up and we were having a good laugh out there at times, especially on the front nine we were having fun.

Q. Ernie talked about being a Yankees fan and Sam obviously an Astros fan and he said he lost a few baseball bets to Sam over the years.

STEVEN ALKER: Yes, he did.

Q. Will you have some special moments tomorrow?

STEVEN ALKER: As long as we don't talk baseball. Ernie is a nice guy. I like playing with Ernie. He's obviously going to be firing all guns blazing.



Yeah, it's still soft out there. The golf course is a little soft. You can be aggressive. Depends what the wind does tomorrow. I've still got to be on the ball and play my game and be aggressive.

Q. Can you elaborate a little bit? Obviously you said you do like the course, that it fits your eye, suits your game. Can you elaborate on some specific features of the course that you tend to like?

STEVEN ALKER: Your tee shots you've kind of got to work both ways. You've got to place it in certain parts of the fairway to get to the green and have a good angle. That I like. You've got to place your tee shots.

Then it's a second-shot golf course. I'm a pretty solid iron play. So pick your spots, be aggressive when you need to, not when you don't need to. The greens are such if you're not in the right portion of the green, you're working hard for two putts. That's the sign of a good golf course.

Q. Did you have any long putts or anything you put right on the pin?

STEVEN ALKER: Today? I'm going to say my bogey on the 17th today I was very, very pleased with. I hit a horrible shot, hit it fat on 17 there, and just played a nice little pitch from 70 yards across the water to four feet. To get out with 5 rather than making 6, I think it just kind of -- that might make me sleep a little bit better tonight. I'll say that.

