
Q. I guess this weekend couldn't have gone any better, could it?

STEVEN ALKER: No, it couldn't have. You couldn't write it up any better. You're just really pleased the way I played, and just coming down the stretch, I know Strick -- Matt Gogel was chasing, as well, so I had to be careful of what he was doing. I just kind of had to keep the pedal down. To shoot what I did last year, kind of finish the way I did last year, that was really pleasing.

Q. You had to shoot pretty well because Stricker picked up nine birdies today. He was 7-under for the round.

STEVEN ALKER: Well, I think the conditions today, slightly different wind and still soft greens, you knew someone was going to come out pretty strong. I knew I had to keep the pedal down and keep trying to make birdies.

I think that probably helped in a way, just to get in that mode, be aggressive as I could, and make some birdies coming in.

Q. I noticed in your last eight chips before you started your round, you were hitting kind of the distance that this last chip was on 18 and even a few on the back nine that were sort of similar distances. I don't know if that's a coincidence or if you knew I need to have this sort of in the bag or --

STEVEN ALKER: You always need it. You always need everything coming down the stretch. Those shots, I've been working pretty hard at them, too, just sharpening up the short game with some big weeks coming up. Yeah, just working at it. It wasn't a coincidence, it's just that's what you need.

Q. I read somewhere last night that you have ambitions or aspirations to want to open a short game clinic or academy. Would you say your short game then is one of the stronger facets of your game?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I think so. My longer game has got better and kind of matched that.

In answer to your question, do I want to? Maybe, maybe not now. I don't know if I want to teach that much. I've got a putting green in the backyard. I might have two now. Maybe I might put another one in or get a bigger one.

I like to just mess around at home and do that sort of stuff. When I'm not working on the long game, I'm at home chipping and putting.



Q. Home is Arizona for you?

STEVEN ALKER: It is.

Q. What were your thoughts coming down the 18th fairway going towards the green?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, well, I got pretty emotional about it. I had to work really hard to stay focused and not get too emotional. I didn't actually know how much lead I had coming down 18. I thought, well, Steve can't be probably more than 12, so I had three up my sleeve maybe, and I wasn't going in that water. That was my plan all along, just to hit it out here and hopefully get up-and-down.

Yeah, it was just emotional more than anything, and just trying to hold back and hit the shots coming in.

Q. You only had like one missed shot, one mis-hit all day.

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I think so. I woke up early, just kind of thinking about it a little bit more, what I wanted to do, because I was close yesterday. I wasn't quite there, but today was pretty much all there. Long game was where I wanted it.

Q. At the end of the round yesterday when we talked, you had mentioned that you felt like you had limped in a little bit on the back nine yesterday. I'm wondering if by the time you get to the back nine today, have you forgotten about that completely? Is it in the past, or is it motivating you to go the other way today?

STEVEN ALKER: No, I wasn't thinking about it at all. I hit it maybe six, seven shots after the round yesterday, just a couple shots I wanted to hit just to tidy it up, and that's all it took.

Different situations. You're leading. At that time I might have been leading by the same amount, but it's on the second day. It's a whole different scenario. I wasn't thinking that, I was just trying to stay calm and get the job done.

Q. There were other emotions that were in the forefront?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah.

