

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**STEVEN ALKER**



**Q. Obviously a special week, A, to get here, and B, just to play in it. Obviously you're familiar with it and it's somewhat of a home game for you.**

**Just your thoughts on the season and ending up here this week.**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Thoughts on the season. Yeah, there's a bunch of second places in there, so if I turned a few of those around, I might have given Stricks a run. Still pleased. Had a win in Houston, that was an emotional win with Sam's place.

Then it's just been consistent, but not as consistently good as last year, I think that's the difference. It's always good to come back to Phoenix and be a home game, that's nice, and we're playing for second, but it's a pretty tight race.

**Q. I'm sure it's been a long season, I'm sure everybody's tired and ready to kind of shut it down. With this week remaining, how are you feeling with your game coming into the week?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, good. As I say, it's consistent, it's just there. The last couple weeks haven't been quite what I wanted, but I just like coming back here and playing here. I get good vibes. I found that this year on certain courses, I had really good vibes and I've normally played pretty well on courses I like.

**Q. What's your reaction to the -- we just talked about, the breaking news with Stricker having to withdraw?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, that's a shame obviously for the organizers. He's been -- he's the No. 1 man, I'm sure they would like to have him here and play, and we would, too, just see him finish it off in style. Yeah, it's sad news obviously for the sponsors, but yeah, we're fighting for second place, that's the big one right now.

**Q. Does that change anything about your focus for the week at all?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** No, no, I don't think so. Just out there just trying to win a golf tournament. Normally it's trying to beat Stricker, but I guess just trying to beat Langer and Padraig that are ahead of me at the moment, just try and get it done.

**Q. Is there anything about this tournament that could be a springboard for next season?**



**STEVEN ALKER:** Wins always help, give that confidence, just boost carrying on, know that you finished the season strong when you played 20-odd tournaments. It would be nice to get one here, home game.

**Q. What are you doing after this week? Do you take some time off, vacation, keep practicing?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** No, we haven't got any vacation time planned, but I'm going to keep practicing. We've got the World Champions Cup that's next on the schedule. I'll definitely take a week off and recoup, refresh the body and get back into it in a couple weeks.

