

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
March 29, 2024



STEVEN ALKER (-6)

Q. Steven, just give me Round 1 takeaways, 6 under currently, tied at the top.

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, clean card, 33-33 and no bogeys, which is nice. I kind of felt like a couple putts on the back nine I kind of left a little bit out there as good as I hit it, but just a nice solid start to the round. Just kind of controlled the ball nicely and did what I wanted to today, so I was pleased.

Q. It seems like you avoided the pitfall that a lot of the other players have, which is really play well early and struggle coming in a bit. You went 33-33, didn't really have the same bogey issues that some of the other guys had. Are those holes coming in, 14 through 18, really that much tougher?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, the wind got up just the last hole. We didn't have too much wind coming in, but you still got to just keep it in the fairway here. You know, those last five or six holes, get in the fairway. Got some tricky par 3s as well. As I said, just gave myself a lot of chances and kept my nose clean, that's kind of what you've got to do around here.

Q. Played well last year here, tied for fifth, now you're tied for the lead. It was Stricker who was fifth, sorry. What is it about this course that fits you?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, again, as I said, you've got to drive it in the fairway, that's key, and then kind of go from there, just kind of attack it. Like today the greens are kind of firm-ish, so if you're not in the fairway you're just kind of struggling all day just to get the ball close. That's the first thing. And the greens are so good here, the condition of the course is amazing, so no excuses there.

Q. When you hear a weather forecast like we're starting to hear a little bit, are you worried about that or do you just go to sleep at night --

STEVEN ALKER: Not so much, I've avoided it. Is it going to rain tomorrow? We're in the desert, what's that? Come on.

Yeah, I've heard there's some rain and some wind coming in. Just try and stay dry and just keep doing what I'm doing.

Q. I just wanted to follow up on that, if you were explaining it to a nongolfer, what are some of the difficulties that come with playing in the rain?

STEVEN ALKER: First of all, just staying dry, just trying to keep the grips dry. Then just



kind of keep your tempo, I think that's the biggest thing in the rain, for me anyway. I'm not a big guy, not a big hitter. I've just got to make sure I hit the ball solid, keep my tempo, just focus on hitting it solid so I can keep the yardage up.

Q. Can you just kind of describe the front nine versus the back nine?

STEVEN ALKER: Kind of much the same. I actually felt like I hit it better on the back nine, gave myself some more chances. I didn't quite hit my lines on my putts, but made some -- a nice one on, what was it, 15 and 16. That was pleasing because I was hitting it really nice and not getting much out of my round. I was pleased with that back nine.

Q. You bogeyed on 15 and then you birdie on 16. Necessarily, how important is it for you to rally back in such a tight race?

STEVEN ALKER: I didn't have any bogeys today, no bogeys today. To answer your question, it's always -- if you can try to bounce back as soon as you can and keep the round going, that's huge for momentum for the round.

