

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
August 9, 2024

STEVEN ALKER (-6)



Q. Why are you so good around here?

STEVEN ALKER: I just said to Cookie, it's kind of a second-shot golf course. There's room off the tee and you get lots of options, get into those little portions of the green. And just hitting yardages is key around here. Then, as I said, I like poa greens. They're always fantastic here, they're always rolling so good. It's just a matter of getting your speed and you hit 'em online and you hole 'em.

Q. Is the course starting to dry out?

STEVEN ALKER: A little bit, yes. Pro-am day was a little bit soft from tee to green. Started to bounce a little bit today on a few holes. Yeah, just some shots --

Q. Inconsistent?

STEVEN ALKER: A little bit, a little bit. The greens staff has done an amazing job because with the weather and the heat here it's hard to put water on the golf course. No, they've been great, they're doing a good job. Just a couple greens bounce more than others, but apart from that, it's good.

Q. We talked earlier in the week. Any of that come up during today's round?

STEVEN ALKER: Not so much. Cookie actually, we did a little interview on 13 tee and I told him don't bring it up, don't talk too much about it because I get emotional. I was talking to you the other day about it. It kind of kickstarted everything. I'm just so grateful for that. Just love coming back here. If I can support the event for as long as I can, I'd love to.

Q. What is it about this golf course that makes it -- I mean, a lot of guys say we like this because it's a second-shot course, it's not bomb it and go.

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah. Well, it's a combination of everything. It's the area and just the fans that come out and support us as much as they can.

Yeah, I think it's more of a second-shot golf course, and the conditions are always good. That's what we're looking for in a golf course, good conditions and a golf course that is not going to go 20 under. It's just not around here.

Q. You haven't won since January. What have you been working on and what would a win mean?

STEVEN ALKER: Huge, especially here where it all started. I've got a couple tournaments I've kind of got my eye on before the end of the year. It would mean a lot. I've had a few seconds this year as well, I've been kind of in the hunt. Firestone, I was very disappointed after two days and had a bad Saturday. You put that behind you, just carry on. I haven't had a lot of time to work on my game. Now, this is a period where I've got four or five weeks to kind of knuckle down and get it sharp and get it going for the end of the year, make a push.

Q. What did you hit on 18?

STEVEN ALKER: I hit a rescue there, it was kind of perfect. I think 230 to the hole, 215 to the front or something like that. It was just a nice one into the wind there, so it worked out well.

Q. What kind of club, I'm sorry?

STEVEN ALKER: A rescue.

Q. 12 feet for eagle?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it ended up nice. We kind of didn't get much of a clap there. Is it on the green, is it not? It honestly rolled around and ended up pretty good. That was just a nice putt, speedy one down the hill and just had nice pace.

Q. How nice is it to go to bed with an eagle?

STEVEN ALKER: It always makes dinner taste better, that eagle. You walk off and you're feeling good and some mojo going into tomorrow.

Q. You thought 66 would -- where would you have thought that would put you today?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, kind of norm it is around here. Start at kind of 5 or 6 is the number, stay with the pace, stay close. I thought I felt good today and 4 or 5 would have been nice, just one off maybe. To grab that eagle was nice.