



FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
January 28, 2018

ALEX NOREN (-10, playoff pending)

Q. What's your mindset knowing that you're looking for your first win on the PGA TOUR and it's going to maybe take another day?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, but I'm happy it's too dark right now, I could barely see the last putt, but it's very enjoyable, this is what I play for, so I'm excited.

Q. Would you have wanted to keep going knowing that you had the momentum from such a good round today?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, if it had some more sunshine it would be nice to get a finish, but it's better this way than maybe missing a short one when you can't see.

Q. Describe your emotions for us on what's been a very long day with still no result.

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, very, very long day and it's nerve wracking playing these extra holes. Sometimes you think he's got it in the box, and then the next hole I think I have a good chance at it. So it's tough, but I'm happy of the way he played and the way I played and just to get out here tomorrow again.

Q. How much pressure do you feel in that playoff situation where one good shot you could win it, one bad shot, the dream's over?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, it's like match play, you know, coming down the stretch. It's so important over every shot, and maybe not as much as stroke play, you know, you can play safe sometimes and you can play aggressive here. Here you need to play aggressive to finish it out.

Q. Thoughts on tomorrow coming back obviously to try to win this championship, how will you approach it?

ALEX NOREN: I'll approach it the same way, go out in a normal round, I know what to expect. I think maybe the hole plays the same way as it does today, I don't know, but we made a few birdies here so I'll just warm up and see what happens.

Q. Alex, what a long day. You played 23 holes of golf. I thought down the stretch in regulation you made some really crucial putts at 16 and 17, you really played well.

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, I did, and had a good chance on 18 but didn't really take it. I was in a weird lie like a downhill lie so I didn't fancy my hybrid. I should have hit hybrid in the end

probably, but it's the way it goes. You don't want to hit into water short. Yeah, it's been a very long day and I'm excited. I mean, we both played good on these extra holes and I'm looking forward to tomorrow.

Q. How difficult were the last couple of holes to putt with how dark it was?

ALEX NOREN: It's very dark. On the last hole I could barely see, but I putted out, yeah, I putted that one in regulation play, I knew it's going to break a little bit left to right, so that helped me a lot.

Q. Noren-Day Showdown, five playoff holes, not enough. What was it like for you being a part of this?

ALEX NOREN: Well, it was very nice in the beginning when you could see. In the end it was very tough, and now it's super dark. That last putt I kind of knew from experience from the 72nd hole that it was going to go a little bit left to right, but I couldn't see much and it was nice that we called it off, I think. Back at it tomorrow.

Q. How tough was it to stay mentally up through five playoff holes and you were able to birdie 18 three times?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, it's quite easier maybe to stay up, you need to finish him off and it's tough. You know, he's playing great but it's almost like match play, you just try to be quite aggressive and try to make a birdie, but it's tough.

Q. (No microphone.)

ALEX NOREN: The thing was, it was probably a perfect hybrid, but I was in a downhill lie and the grain of the fairway was into me so I was sitting a little bit -- I thought I was going to thin it a bit and I didn't really fancy being in the water short. I hit the 3-wood. I was going to try to hit it a little bit higher. I don't know where it bounced but it went past the green. It was probably the play to hit it, but looking back at it, it's maybe an easier wedge shot from the fairway than back here. But I gave it a chance. I hit a decent shot and just missed the putt.

Q. Did the four-minute wait at all in the fairway affect you?

ALEX NOREN: Well, not necessarily, not necessarily. It's just, you know, you just -- probably made me switch clubs.

Q. Jason said he would love to have kept playing like old times with your friends. Does it kind of have that feel in some way with 5,000 people around you?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, I wish it was more daylight, not to go back in the morning because now you're into it, but it's the way it goes.

Q. So what do you do tonight, how do you handle the layoff and coming back and getting back in this groove?

ALEX NOREN: It's just like going out in a match play event probably, I'm just going to warm up like usual, hang out with my family and another day.

Q. Have you ever had to make a putt like that, though, in such darkness?

ALEX NOREN: No, I don't think so. Yeah, I was going off my experience on that 72nd hole to kind of see the read. It was very dark, but the first putt, he had to tend the pin, it was very dark.

Q. Did you feel like you were going to win it as close as you put that first --

ALEX NOREN: Well, but he had exactly that putt on I think the first extra hole, he knew the line. When you know the line and a good green and a good putter, he's going to make it probably.

Q. Were you telling yourself mentally when he keeps making those shots, what are you telling yourself on the fairway?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, when you play against a guy like that, he's going to hit good shots, especially in a playoff in a tournament. It just, you know, it's how it goes.

Q. Did you feel like you had the upper hand or did you feel like --

ALEX NOREN: I think the upper hand, the first one, but then he was closer than me the next three holes and then I was closer than him on the last hole, so it's like 3-2 against to him, but he had some good chances and I had some good chances.

Q. When it's this dark, is there any guesswork involved?

ALEX NOREN: Not really. I mean the last hole I knew the yardage and the winds calmed down from the first extra hole, so I just trusted the yardage to go with the hybrid, which was a good call. I was thinking about 3-wood again, but it was a good yardage for hybrid.

Q. How about on the putting?

ALEX NOREN: On the putting it was very dark.

Q. Did these conditions bring back memories of rounds in Europe? These were really tough conditions for American golf.

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, it's very tough conditions, but I think American golf courses like holes like 15, you can almost carry it on the green or up on that slope. And then 16 was easier

now when it was less wind but that pin is like -- when it's like that, it's like maybe links golf sometimes. But these courses, like U.S. Open courses, we don't have firm greens like that. We play a little bit softer greens and it's just very tough, so you almost have to play away from the pins even though you have like 9-iron in the fairway, which is more like probably U.S. Open than European golf.

Q. Several wins on the European Tour, looking for your first PGA TOUR win. What would that mean to you if you were able to get that here at this tournament on this course tomorrow?

ALEX NOREN: Well, it means a lot. You know, I came over here to kind of learn how to play these courses a bit more. I felt like three majors are in American, one in Europe, and we have great golf courses in Europe. I just want to play a bit more setup-wise like they do on the PGA TOUR, firmer greens, more rough and then, like I said, you tuck the pins. Even though it's firm conditions and you get used to that after playing a few events like that so when you get to majors, you're not kind of too fresh and inexperienced, so to speak. So that's what my goal was, to play a little bit more on the PGA TOUR this year, yeah.