

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
January 28, 2021



ALEX NOREN (-8)

Q. Just describe your round if you could, please.

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, I hit it very good with my irons and wedges, putted very good. The driver wasn't as good as I wanted it, but out here you could get away with it if you manage to get out of the rough, hit the greens anyway. But I definitely need to shape up the driver for tomorrow. Otherwise, I'm very happy, yeah.

Q. Did you feel like you needed to take advantage of these great conditions on the North Course with the South Course tomorrow?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, I'm hoping that we're going to not get too flooded during the night. But I played the South Course two rounds this week and I know how long it is now, especially when they lengthened some tee boxes, put them back. It's a test, you definitely need some good ball-striking there, especially in windy conditions. It's good to get some birdies on the North, yeah.

Q. Talking with your caddie, Austin, he kind of described your last week as good ball-striking but couldn't make a putt and there was some so-so ball-striking but maybe making a few putts. Did you feel like today, other than your driving, things kind of came together a little bit more?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, and definitely with the putting, I felt like I didn't have to care about the speed as much, more automatic and you look at the hole and try to make it instead of kind of being frustrated; it's one short, one long, one short, one long. That makes a big difference.

Q. Can you just walk through the eagle on 17?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, so hit a good drive, one of the few fairways hit today, I hit a good drive and I had a 7-iron. I don't usually draw the ball but that pin position on the way left I kind of had to hit a draw. Hit it to 20 feet maybe and holed it. Felt good.

Q. You obviously aren't happy with your driving.

ALEX NOREN: Yeah.

Q. How do you feel about going to that course tomorrow?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, I drove it pretty good in the practice rounds and then sometimes you get to that point, if you hit a few bad ones, you start wondering what's wrong and this and

that and you try and fix it. I hit a few good ones today and I'm not too worried, I know what I need to do to shape it up on the range. Maybe spend an hour, hit some balls and get a better feeling with the driver. I don't think you need to hit it perfect, you just need to hit like okay out there with the driver. I'm used to being in the rough pretty much half the time, so I'm just, if I get an hour on the range, I'm looking forward to that.

Q. Kind of along those same lines, you finished runner-up here before. What's the key to playing the South Course well?

ALEX NOREN: It's more of a obviously U.S. Open style course, long holes. Even if you hit good drives you still have 6-, 5-irons in. Obviously just hit enough fairways, hit enough greens and take advantage of the par 5s and it's not much to it. You just need to do everything pretty well.

Q. You've won all over the world, you've won big tournaments obviously in Europe, the BMW PGA. Do you feel like the time that you've been on the PGA TOUR, you're due and you're ready to win here?

ALEX NOREN: I had a year off with my coach and I started working with him again, so corona wasn't too easy on everybody. I know it's not as serious as some other cases with corona, but not seeing him much, trying to do a lot on my own, it wasn't very good for the confidence.

Now I'm trying to see him more, so I need to get like a little bit better consistency in my game and therefore I will get some more confidence, and I think the confidence part plays a big role when you try to win tournaments, try to finish good positions. I just need to work some more with him and get that confidence up.