

ALEX NOREN (-17)

Q. Alex, good playing. So, when I think of you, I think a little bit of that playoff that you had with Jason Day at Torrey Pines where you really didn't give an inch and he ended up winning it. How would you describe your odyssey since that day to now?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, well, you mean the stretch from then to now? Well, played pretty good in the rest of '18. Had some -- then I only played pretty much in -- well, '19 I played a little bit in Europe as well, and then with corona, I've only played over here. You know, it's hard. Like I worked quite close to my coach who was here this week over the five, six previous years coming up to '18 and then I kind of worked maybe too much on my own thinking I was doing stuff that I was doing -- that was correct but maybe not. So he wants my swing a little different and we're working our way back to that to be naturally a little easier to play good and not fighting so much with the technique.

Q. Because you looked -- that day at Torrey Pines I would have said this guy's going to win very, very soon. Did you have that thought yourself?

ALEX NOREN: Well, I kind of won a few months after that in France, but yeah, I know my -- I know my game and I know that there's so many good players. Sometimes I kind of neglect like what really makes me play well and when the short game, wedges, putting is on top, it's going to be -- that's kind of what happened at Torrey. But then in my mind I thought I had the ball-striking all my life, which maybe isn't true. So I'm trying to get out of that and try to really put more emphasis on what he thinks is right rather than what I think is right.

Q. You mentioned thinking that you hadn't won since 2018. Were you thinking of that over the putt?

ALEX NOREN: No, I didn't think about that over the putt. It's more like I haven't been in that position that many times recently. It's all habit sort of. Like when you play well, you get up to these positions, it's a little easier for every time you're up here. You maybe like too defense -- I was maybe too defensive on that one, you know, thinking too much about I really want this win instead of just giving it a good read and a good putt. Yeah, you learn.

Q. Kind of a bittersweet end to an awesome round?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, I'm going to take an 8 under at the beginning of the day. All you can do is just try and get better and I'm going to do that. Whatever happens, you need to get better. Too many good players out here.

Q. What's the best wedge shot you hit today?

ALEX NOREN: I hit a good one on 1 from the right side of the fairway, kind of cut one, low one back into that back pin. Then I hit -- well, the one on 18 was good, it was a pitching wedge. A few good ones, like I think is 14, the short par 4, close there. A lot of those like 70, 80 shots.

Q. How would you describe in simple terms the change that your coach wanted you to make?

ALEX NOREN: He kind of pushed me into hitting a bunch of low draw shots and then step up right after to hit a straight shot. So using that, what my body does when I hit a low draw to hit a straight shot instead of I get kind of too -- I try to fade it too much and then I get into bad positions with the body.

Q. Are you a Redwings fan by chance?

ALEX NOREN: Yeah, I was, because of Zetterberg.