

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**August 15, 2021**



**ALEX SMALLEY ( -10)**

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**Q. Closing round of your sixth PGA TOUR start, kind of a colorful round but an awesome way to end it with a birdie streak at the end. Give me some comments about it.**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** Just happy I got through it. We had a quick turnaround again. It's never easy getting up early, 5:15. We were warming up in the dark.

So got off to a good start, birdied 2, probably should have parred 4, made a good putt on 5 for birdie. Was feeling pretty good and then wasn't feeling so great about where I was hitting it through 14.

Had the break of a lifetime on 15, hit it right, thought it was going out of bounds, ended up in the weeds on the right. I found the ball, it was sitting down pretty far. I identified it, picked it up and I could see the dirt underneath. There was a rules official there and he determined that it actually embedded in the ground, so I got to take a free drop and dropped it on the matted part of the long grass and chipped it out sideways. Hit a 5-iron from 210 yards for seven feet and made it for an easy four.

Hit a good shot on 16, I just had to make sure I got it in the bowl and it came back down to the hole to three feet. No. 17 I was in the rough, not the greatest place to be with where that pin was, used the slope a little bit on the green, went down to 15 feet. That putt breaks a lot, I've seen that pin there before and it breaks quite a bit and it snuck in the back door.

And then I just tried to get down 18. The tee shot was the biggest shot on that hole and I put it in the fairway and was just trying to put it on the green from there and hit it close. It was nice to make the putt for a 3. I couldn't have dreamt of a better finish.

**Q. As a member, you're familiar with this course. How did conditions today compare to how you've seen this course most of the time?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** I mean, this week it was playing pretty firm. The fairways were rolling out a good ways. From the rain overnight it was definitely a little softer. Greens were great, though. If you saw a couple putts go in early and you were feeling good about where you were starting it, it felt like you could make everything out there.

The rough is pretty brutal and with it being -- with us teeing off so early with it being a little wet just makes it that much more difficult. So I kept it in the fairway most of the time on the front, most of the time on the back as well and got a couple really good breaks.

**Q. And with the birdies, did that kind of help carrying the momentum having family members and locals cheering you on for the first one, the second?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** Yeah, it was nice to hear their cheers out there. I don't get to play in front of a whole lot of people very often, so it's pretty cool to have people scream at you after you make a putt.

**Q. I may have been misinterpreting this, but were you having an emotional moment a second ago after the round?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** Yeah, it's pretty cool, first of all, to play here. To have the opportunity to play a PGA TOUR event on your home course is pretty special. I had some things coming into the week that some people may not have known about to try and get into the Korn Ferry Finals and it's very difficult not to think about it, but I think it helped me out quite a bit that I'm playing on my home course. I kind of know my way around. So to have that finish, yeah, it was pretty cool.

**Q. What was the pressure like this week?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** It wasn't too bad. I think it helped quite a bit that, like I said, I've played out here numerous times before, so I felt comfortable on the course. I had moments every day where I kind of had a rough patch and just kind of had to get through it and had to see a putt go in or something had to happen and it kind of snapped me out of it. There's a little bit more today, but I didn't feel a whole lot the front nine. After I made the mess on 11, it definitely tightened up a little bit.

**Q. Do you know where you stand right now? Did Tom explain in there? Are you in the Playoffs?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** Yeah, I'm in the Korn Ferry Finals. Those four helped quite a bit.

**Q. How much of a life-changer can this week be for you?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** I don't know if it's -- if I could put it into words. To have the opportunity to play for a PGA TOUR card the next three weeks on the Korn Ferry Finals is huge. To have the opportunity to not have to go to Korn Ferry Q-School this fall is huge as well.

But again, I have to not think about that, just like I did this week; not think about having the possibility to make it that far. I just have to go play like I know how to play.

**Q. Did you have a number in mind today?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** I don't know if I had a number. I wanted to be under par, anywhere under par I think was good enough for me. I think the course was playing a little easier just because it was a little softer. I told my caddie walking up 18 I wanted to get it to double digits

and I made that putt on 18 to get to 10 under.

**Q. How many tickets did you need this week? How many people did you have in your gallery that you knew?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** I got four complimentary tickets and we used all four. I had a buddy from college, I played golf at Duke so I had a guy from college come out yesterday. Definitely a lot of the guys I play out here with on a regular basis were out here watching, probably had a good 15 to 20 people out here following.

My grandmother's here, too, from Ohio, but she didn't come out and watch today; her legs were tired from yesterday and she was following along on the computer. I was joking with my family, she didn't walk with us in the second round and I shot 6 under and she didn't walk with us today and I shot 4 under, so I said she's not coming out to watch anymore.

**Q. Do you already have a reservation for Boise or do you have to go do that now?**

**ALEX SMALLEY:** I don't like to do it in advance just because it's -- you know, I wasn't in for sure, but we made airplane tickets on Saturday morning, we got airplane tickets to go up to Boise Saturday morning after I made the cut. I got a hotel a few days before that because we can cancel it the day of, so I think we have everything we need at this point.