

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 27, 2022



ALEX SMALLEY (-9)

Q. Alex, excellent round of golf, almost the course record over there. I thought that last putt was going to drop for you, too, but what was the key for you today?

ALEX SMALLEY: Hitting a lot of greens, just giving myself chances. Felt like I drove the ball better yesterday on the South course and missed a few more fairways today, but was able to get some putts to fall. I had a couple that I left short that were right in the middle. It could have been a very special day, but it was a very good day and looking forward to the weekend.

Q. You mentioned you felt like you drove it better yesterday on the South course. You've got two more rounds coming up on that course. How challenging is that side?

ALEX SMALLEY: It's very exhausting mentally and physically exhausting. There's just no break in holes, No. 2's the shortest par 4, but every other par 4's 440 to 450 or longer. Just very exhausting, but hopefully if I can play as well as I did today, drive the ball the same that I did on Thursday, I'm sorry, on Wednesday over there and hit a few more greens and keep giving myself chances, I think I'll fare pretty well.

Q. We all think it's Friday anyways here even though it's Thursday. You said about playing well. You continue to do so here your rookie year on the PGA TOUR. It's gone very well. What have you learned along the way early on?

ALEX SMALLEY: I was fortunate to get some starts out here last year and I've become more and more comfortable being out here after each event. You know, I wasn't used to having a whole lot of people out following me, watching me, so that was probably the biggest change for me was just having people everywhere and having grandstands everywhere.

And obviously the golf courses are in better condition. So just getting used to that aspect of things and just keep doing what I've been doing for the past year and a half. Yeah, very excited for what's to come the rest of the year.

Q. Alex, your caddie mentioned to me last week at the AmEx you had a unique -- not unique but a different preparation for it. You went there before the Sony, went to the Sony and then came back and played.

ALEX SMALLEY: Yeah.

Q. Can you just elaborate about that a little bit and getting prepared to start the season and how that's benefited you?

ALEX SMALLEY: Right. Don's a very experienced caddie, he's been out here since '99 I think he said with DeMarco, so he is very well prepared when we go to events. He tells me what I need to prepare for before every week and he thought it would be a good idea to go out there a few days before just because coming back from Hawaii, it's difficult to play three practice rounds in a matter of two and a half days to get ready for that event. And it was also nice to kind of split the time change in half coming from the east coast and to knock the rust off a little bit. I think it prepared me well for Hawaii. I didn't play as well as I wanted to in Hawaii, but it helped me later on during the American Express. Get to see the Stadium course a few times before the event was nice.

Q. Looks like it's benefiting you even more now today with this round. That North course compared to the South course, can you just speak to the difference between the two of them?

ALEX SMALLEY: The South course is a whole lot longer, longer holes, longer par 5s. Most of the par 5s, just about every par 5 on the North course you can get to in two pretty comfortably if you drive it in the fairway. Even if you miss it you can get it up near the green in two and have a chip at eagle.

South course is just mentally and physically exhausting. It's just one hole after the next after the next, there's no break. The greens are a little bit different on the North course, they're bent with a little poa annua mixed in and then the South is more poa annua, so I think rolling the ball on the greens is a little easier on the North course. You get a little bit of a truer roll than you do on the South. Later in the day gets kind of iffy. And obviously the green complexes are different, there's more levels and tiers on the South than there are on the North, so you have to be more precise with your iron shots into the green not to have to putt up and down slopes all day long.