ROUND 1 INTERVIEW April 1, 2022

**STEVEN ALKER (-11)** 



### Q. Steven, nine-stroke improvement for you from yesterday to today. What was the biggest difference?

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, I just kind of dialed in my irons early on and took advantage of the par 5s, and obviously putted better. You always putt well when you shoot 62. I just gave myself a lot of chances. Seemed like I was inside kind of 10 feet, 12 feet a lot today and I made some nice up-and-downs at the end, which was nice because I was just trying to hang on, but I was kind of in between clubs. Just tried to stay aggressive, that was the big thing.

## **Q.** You established the course record, the tournament record for 18 holes. Does that mean anything?

**STEVEN ALKER:** Sure, yeah, it's huge. I mean, I think Freddie Couples had it, Billy just told me, he had it before, so it's always nice to get it. You never know at the start of the day kind of shooting for 62, you just try to go out and do your best and stay aggressive and make some birdies because you know the guys behind are going to make a few as well.

#### Q. You recently changed something with your putting?

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, a little bit, my setup. Got a little bit more over the ball and then kind of not looking at the hole as much. So just kind of focusing on a little point in front of the ball and just rolling it. Not so much seeing my line, but getting my speed right and committing to it a bit more.

### Q. The weather was a little bit different today, a little bit more of a breeze. Did that affect you at all today compared to yesterday?

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, those first kind of seven or eight holes it was kind of nothing and then it picked up. We were standing on 7 tee and it came in, it started blowing. Yeah, it got tricky there around the bend, but I just hit some nice close shots and taking advantage.

#### Q. How much of it is playing the course for maybe the third (inaudible)?

**STEVEN ALKER:** It definitely helps, yeah, to get the greens and the winds here, because you know the wind is just swirling in these trees. So it's just a matter of kind of picking and committing to a club. I didn't do that so well yesterday, but it was better today.

#### Q. How much out of today can you take into tomorrow?

**STEVEN ALKER:** It's huge. I know I've got to keep the pedal to the metal and just keep going. As I said, I just dialed in my wedges and hit some close shots early on. That's the key out here, you've just got to keep hammering away.

# Q. Do you almost at this point expect to go towards the top of the leaderboard now? Do you almost expect to be --

**STEVEN ALKER:** I don't like the word "expect," but I just kind of feel a little more comfortable being up top there. As I said, you never know when you're going to shoot 62, just come out today. But definitely when I get a chance I'm feeling more comfortable with the win at TimberTech last year and just shooting some low scores, that's what I'm trying to do out here.

# **Q.** You talked about after your win at TimberTech. Do you still think you have a point to prove out here?

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, a little bit. These guys are legends. I'm not a legend. I've just got to -- I'm still in awe at times with playing with guys. I played with Padraig yesterday, I haven't played with him before as much as I played Europe. Yeah, and these guys can still play, so you know you've got to get out and do your stuff. Yeah, it's great playing with these guys and just being amongst them, that's the big thing.

### Q. You're having fun?

**STEVEN ALKER:** Having fun, that's what it's all about.