

STEVEN ALKER (-6)

Q. Steven, bogey-free 66 today, what was going well?

STEVEN ALKER: First of all, it's nice to have a bogey-free round at Firestone. It's that type of golf course, you've just got to keep going. But kind of everything, drove it in the fairway for the most part today and hit a lot of greens except for the last few. I scrambled nicely the last couple holes. Overall, just a solid day. Kind of kept my nose clean and haven't done too much wrong. A few more putts would be nice, but yeah, at Firestone, just fairways and greens around here.

Q. You started on 10, you birdied 14 through 16. Can you walk us through those three holes?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, just kind of got going. Hit some nice shots early and just wasn't capitalizing on the putts. I hit it close, just hit some close shots, that was the key. Yeah, I mean, it was just a solid round of golf.

Q. I understand in between Round 1 and Round 2 a little speed work on the putting green, lifting your arms up a little bit?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I was actually -- felt like yesterday I was putting very defensive and I was just making the hole, so I was just working on just putting that just past, get a little more speed on my putts. Not too much speed here, but just to eight inches was what I was working on and it worked out nicely. I had more putts that went in with a bit more authority.

Q. Do you enjoy playing a hard place like this?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I do, I love it. We had the Senior Open a couple weeks ago and we come here and it's like you have to be on your game. I wasn't quite on my game at the Senior Open, but kind of had a week off and just kind of thought about it and it's kind of come together this week.

Q. What's working so well for you this year?

STEVEN ALKER: Well, everything. I mean, it's just kind of -- and I'm not having any bad weeks where I'm struggling with my game, I'm not searching for my game, that's the big thing. It's kind of always there when the week comes around and just keep doing what I'm doing and just trying to hole as many putts as I can.

Q. What's your schedule going to be like moving forward from this week?

STEVEN ALKER: Moving forward, playing the Senior British and I'm not going to play Canada and then planning to play all the rest. It's kind of my anniversary at Boeing, that's one year for me. I like all those golf courses coming in and I look forward to playing those again. And I actually know the golf course that I'm playing and I'll be ready to play.

Q. What is -- do you think that it's been a year?

STEVEN ALKER: It's gone super quick. It's amazing. Boeing's in like whatever, four, five weeks, like wow. Yeah, it's just great. As I say, it's just great to be out here and have the opportunity to play these golf courses, play against these guys. It's been huge. I've learned a heck of a lot. As I've gone on the whole year, just learning things about just playing on the golf courses and getting to know the guys a bit better. It's been a lot of fun.

Q. What have you learned? You said that, it's been a year. What's the biggest --

STEVEN ALKER: Just getting comfortable in this company, I think that's the biggest thing. Just like learning to play my game. It's been hard to watch these guys but just stay in my skin and play my game. And then learning the courses, these are all new. I like playing new courses, it kind of gets me up and going. So just everything, to travel to different places, just the whole package. It's been fun.

Q. When's the last time you played in a British or over in Scotland?

STEVEN ALKER: Jeez, Troon when Stenson won. What year was that, '17?

Q. '16.

STEVEN ALKER: That was my last British Open. Yeah, it's not true links we're going to play in a couple of weeks, but I played the Ryder Cup course, I played the other side. Yeah, just expect some weather. What else? We're in Scotland. Should be a fun week. A lot of family and friends, too. My wife is English and her sister and brother-in-law live up there, so it should be fun.

Q. Are you taking some time off?

STEVEN ALKER: Afterwards? Yeah, a little bit. Yeah, we're going to spend some time with the family. Looking forward to that.

Q. Having an anniversary party?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, exactly, exactly.

Q. Have you played here at Firestone prior to this weekend?

STEVEN ALKER: No, first time, first time.

Q. Have you ever been to Akron?

STEVEN ALKER: Well, I had. Funny enough, a buddy of mine, Phil Tataurangi, who used to play the Tour, I think he played here a couple times in the World event. So followed him around a couple days and I knew that the layout and I've seen the golf course, but in terms of playing it, no. I'm loving it. You've just got to golf your ball.

Q. What time frame was that that you walked around here, do you remember approximately?

STEVEN ALKER: Jeez, probably looking maybe late '90s. I remember I was playing the Canadian Tour and I drove down, I think I was staying in Toronto and I drove down and spent a couple days.

Q. So you had seen the Firestone ball before?

STEVEN ALKER: I had, yes, I've seen the Firestone ball.

Q. When you talked about the guys, are you talking about sort of Hall of Fame guys?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah.

Q. That kind of can be -- I mean, just being around them, is that what you're getting used to?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it is. I hadn't played with a lot of these guys when I was on Tour or Europe or anything. So Stricker, Vijay, Ernie and all those guys, I hadn't played with them before. Just getting comfortable playing with them. And they're super guys. Maybe get a little bit older and soften up, loosen up a little bit, I don't know, but they're very approachable and it's a lot of fun.