

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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STEVEN ALKER

Q. Steven, thanks for a few minutes of your time. Making your second start here at the Hoag Classic, top-15 in 2022. Just your thoughts on the course and how you feel it may set up for your game well.

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I like it here. Obviously with the new layout, the bunkering and adjustments they made to the course, I think it kind of suits me. You've got to drive it well. A few new greens. I like the golf course, it's got a nice feel to it. They opened it up a bit, knocked some trees out. So yeah, it kind of feels like a ball-strikers course. And you're going to have some wedges, but at the same time small greens and kind of a traditional golf course, which I like.

Q. It's obviously known as one of the shorter courses on Tour. Does that force a player's hand in some ways or does that put more of an emphasis on hitting fairways?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, a little bit. I think more so on hitting fairways here because the greens are smaller and get a little bit firm. That's an importance. But at the same time, there's that option of go for it and have it maybe pay off. Yeah, I just like it. It's got that traditional feel with good putting surfaces. It's a good event, too. Hoag does a good job of the event.

Q. And playing in this part of the country, obviously a lot of golf, big golf, do you enjoy this part of the country?

STEVEN ALKER: I do. Generally I've played really pretty well in California, always liked it outed here. Nice week last year in Palm Springs. I think I finished like top-15 or top-20 a couple years ago. Yeah, I enjoy playing out here. Golf courses are always in good shape and it's close to home, too, which is great.

Q. Making your third, fourth start, obviously off to a good start this season. Just some thoughts on how you are feeling in your mind kind of getting as you're ramping into the season?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, as I said, great to start the season. Went down to New Zealand as well and played down there so I've actually played four events. Just been working on some things. This is a good time to do it right now. Yeah, feeling like it's heading in the right direction. Obviously had a good week in Hawaii and that was great to come back after that one. Yeah, it's just a good time. Some big events, Insperity coming up, trying to defend there and start our major season. Yeah, it's just kind of trending to where I want to get to.



Q. And last question, actually a write-in question, does your swing coach, your coaches make any changes to either improve your performance or reduce the risk of injury since you've been getting out on the Champions Tour?

STEVEN ALKER: I'm my own swing coach, to start. From time to time, maybe twice a year I get someone to look at me, but pretty much I do it all myself.

I feel like I'm pretty efficient in terms of my golf swing, trying the same positions and stay strong. Stability is a big thing for me like when I'm working out. So, yeah, but injury prevention is huge. Try and work on that, but just generally try not to hit it too hard.

Q. You mentioned that you're trending with your game. Is it more that you can trend now to try to peak for the major season because of your status and your previous results, because I don't think when you first came out there was no trending, was there?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I think trending -- when I say trending, trending in terms of what I want to work on in my game and get to a point where things are just a little bit better. There's new guys coming out all the time and guys getting better and scores getting lower, so just to make those tiny, small improvements are what I'm after. Something on the putting green or around the greens, just small things in the golf swing. I'm going back to basic fundamentals, just make sure those things are spot on once we start playing some more golf.

Q. Is that a weekly thing or is that just because it's major season's coming up?

STEVEN ALKER: It's pretty much a weekly thing. This year I felt like I tried to focus too much on the majors last year, like trying to build up to them. I think when I first come out I just started playing, every event was just try and win a golf tournament. So I want to try and treat it a little more like that this year, show there's more importance on those and those big events. I think if I just keep coming out doing the same thing I do every week and don't change anything and just play my game, then things will work out.

