

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

ROUND 1 QUOTES

June 21, 2024



STEVE ALLAN (-7)

Q. Well, great start, eight birdies and just the one bogey. Just a few comments about how you felt today?

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, it was good. It's nice to come to a course I'm familiar with. I played here back in the day on PGA TOUR, so I was looking forward to coming here. Course has matured a lot, it's in great shape.

For the most part I played pretty well. I got lucky a couple times with my drives. Hit a few drives left in the middle of the round and one of them kicked in the fairway, I had gaps in the other two so I was a little lucky. I played well, I holed out well around the hole. Any sort of shortish putts for par or birdie I made 'em, so that kept the round going.

Q. Coming into the week playing pretty well, top 20s in your last two starts. What do you feel most confident about with your game right now?

STEVE ALLAN: My game has been -- I feel like it's slowly trending in the right direction all year. You know, I haven't played well the last few years. I think today it was my driving that was letting me down. Generally, my irons and wedges haven't been that good, but I've improved, hit a few really nice wedges today, so it was nice to get that feeling of sort of some crisp shots and spinning the ball with the wedge. It feels like it's going the right way.

Q. Obviously weather was on the radar so to speak. How important is it for you to get this in and done?

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, it's great. As you know, as a rookie, don't get to play early. I'm still unsure why we were in the first group, but I was quite happy to be out there in the first group, that was great. It was great to take advantage of some nice conditions. Yeah, it was a good first round, for sure.

Q. After Madison's event on that Monday, your family showed up, didn't they?

STEVE ALLAN: Yes.

Q. How important has that been and how long have you been away?

STEVE ALLAN: It's good, it's great. I was away for three weeks. It's great, they've been at a few tournaments. My boys caddied for me in Tucson and Palm Springs, that was a bit



closer to home in Arizona. The first one they've seen in the summer, so it's great to have a good round with them out here for sure.

Q. They got to play a little golf, too, didn't they, up in Vermont?

STEVE ALLAN: We did. The boys played an AJGA in Vermont. We had a couple hits in Boston, TPC Boston and a friend of mine has a club, Old Sandwich, which is a great course. Yeah, it's good to have them around.

Q. How were the conditions out there today and how do you think things are shaping up for the rest of the weekend?

STEVE ALLAN: The conditions are perfect at the moment. The greens have a little bit of firmness to them, but they're not too hard. The course is in great shape. A good little bit -- there's a little bit of rough so you have to drive the ball well, but it's not overly penal if you just miss a fairway, so I love it, it's great.

Q. Birdieing on 18, obviously it was a great round finishing with an even better hole. How does that kind of build momentum for tomorrow?

STEVE ALLAN: I think you always feel good when you birdie the last, it just leaves a good taste in your mouth. There's so many rounds where you have a bad finish and you just sort of feel, what if, what if, and if you birdie the last you can't really say that.

Q. You walk off the course with the lead. What's it going to take to kind of maintain that and enter Sunday in the final group?

STEVE ALLAN: I think just because we're out first there will be a lot of guys with good scores today. I'm not sure if that's going to hold up, but if you have -- I'd put it in the books right now, a couple more rounds like that. I think -- I haven't looked ahead in the forecast how the wind's going to be, but I think you'll need to keep making birdies to get up there.

