

KORN FERRY TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 QUOTES

October 3, 2024



PLAYER

Q. Just thoughts on your round and the difficulty of the course as well.

ALVARO ORTIZ: I played really well. I thought it was a really good round overall from tee to green. I didn't have much action around the greens, to be honest. I hit a lot of greens and had putted really well. I thought I hit a bunch of good putts that I think at the end of the day they didn't go in.

I'm really happy with the start. Definitely could have been way lower, but like I said, I'm really happy with the way it started. Just feel really confident with my game. I know it's going to be a good rest of the tournament.

Q. How would you summarize this course to somebody that may not have seen it or played it before?

ALVARO ORTIZ: It's definitely, it's different, it's different. It's really long, really tight and the smallest greens I ever played. It's very challenging, but I think it suits my game really well.

I think if you can place it on the greens -- on the fairway, like I said, it's small greens but it's definitely a huge advantage just because if you're going to hit the green, you're going to have probably inside 25 feet, 20 feet for birdie. I'm hitting the ball really well and my irons are dialed in. I had a bunch of looks today and yeah, I'm really happy with the way I'm playing.

Q. What's like the most nerve wracking shot do you think that there is on this course?

ALVARO ORTIZ: Oh, definitely 16 I think, yeah. I think that 220 yards -- it was 230 today to a back pin. Nice Sunday pin on a Thursday, huh? Probably that one.

But there's a bunch of just challenging tee shots, that's just the way Pete Dye designs it. You don't see much of the fairway sometimes and it's like they look so small. Even though they're not that small, but they look so small and they're just intimidating. I really like the golf course, I really like the design. And I mean, c'mon, this property is second to none. It's so beautiful and I'm happy we got to come here.

Q. And with where you're at on the points list, how much did you look coming into the week of where you need to finish to have a chance and all that?



ALVARO ORTIZ: Honestly, at this point I think it's a win, you know? I think for a bunch of guys, I think if you're outside like the top 45, it's pretty much a win or a solo second. I have nothing to lose. Just I have my friend with me this week and I've been enjoying it, so I want to continue to do that these next three days.

Q. Does that help you any knowing that you can kind of play with nothing to lose a little bit?

ALVARO ORTIZ: Yeah, I guess. I came with that mindset to the Playoffs just knowing that I'm in a spot where I know I'm going to have my Korn Ferry card for next year. Like I said, I have nothing to lose. I've been playing really well.

Struggled a little bit mentally the last couple of months, but I feel like I'm in a great spot now and I'm trending. Yeah, I think it frees you up, the fact that you only have to win. It's definitely aiming at the pins and stuff like that. I feel like it frees me up a little bit.

Q. You said you've been struggling mentally the past few months. Can you talk more about that and then how you feel now and how that's kind of transitioned throughout Playoffs?

ALVARO ORTIZ: Yeah, it's hard. Like I've got to be honest, playing a lot of golf, it's hard so many weeks in a row. We went through a stretch of basically four months where we only had a week off. It wears you out really quick.

It's a learning process definitely, learning how to manage your energy and how to stay in hotels and stay in AirBnBs and doing all that. Like knowing how to basically -- basically knowing how to know yourself. I learned a lot this season. Definitely towards the end of the season I started to manage myself better. I can feel it the last, at least the last month how my energy levels have been up and I've been able to push myself practicing and doing other things.

Q. And then how is it then having your parents out here? What does that mean to you?

ALVARO ORTIZ: Oh, awesome. They haven't been able to come with me this year much, but it's incredible. When I have them with me traveling, it makes it so much easier.

Q. Do you think you play better having that support system around?

ALVARO ORTIZ: Well, I think so. This year for sure. I've made every single cut that they've been around and I actually played really well. I think they bring me some good luck.



Q. You talked about liking the course. Given how it's not really like anything you guys have played all year with the length and the hilliness of it, how much of it this week do you think it will be an endurance test as much as a mental test navigating your way around this place?

ALVARO ORTIZ: To be honest, at this point of the season we're all like, we're emptying the tank this week. Yes, it's a physical and mental battle, but we know we're here and this is the last week, so I think that doesn't come much into play. Yeah, I think definitely the difficulty of the golf course makes it more interesting and that's helpful I think for all the players.

