

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
November 9, 2024

STEVEN ALKER (-12)



Q. I'll tell you what, Steven, you have a chance to go out tomorrow and not only defend your championship, but you have a chance to win the Charles Schwab Cup for the second time. What would it mean for you to accomplish both those goals?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it would be huge. You get one and you think that's great, fantastic. Then to get another one just kind of shows, yeah, I'm playing pretty good.

The whole goal was to defend the championship this week and if I do that, then the Schwab Cup's a bonus.

Q. You made an up-and-down on the 17th. Yesterday you didn't have your best day, but you came back and birdied 17 and 18, kind of set up today's round. How big was the putt on 17 to save par just setting up looking forward to tomorrow?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it was huge. Actually, I got a little read off Miguel's putt there, he was the same line. You just want to keep that momentum and that's what I've been doing this week. A lot of good par saves and getting on some birdie runs, that kind of keeps you going, keeps the momentum going.

Q. You say some good runs, you had 24 putts today, 22 yesterday, 26 in day one. That's pretty good. Are you going to sleep with your putter tonight?

STEVEN ALKER: It's just heated up. I just quiet the noise a little bit and settle it down and softened up my grip a little bit. Just small things go a long way. I've been seeing my lines good and rolling it good.

Q. Steven, great round. Over here with Phil just a minute ago, you said as defending champion your biggest goal is to come back and successfully defend. With a round like that, how are you feeling about that?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, feeling great. I had a nice warmup this morning and just kind of started feeling my swing. The last three or four holes yesterday, just started feeling it. I kind of just went with it and I've been rolling the ball great. It was nice, just nice to get in the hunt and give myself a chance.

Q. And how much was the Schwab Cup season-long title on your mind as you've won that before?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it's been there for a while. I haven't had a great playoff season this



year, so I was hoping for a little better and maybe grab the lead. You know, timing's everything, right, so you've just got to get up there and try to make it happen when you need to. And today was great, I was really happy with what I did.

Q. And when you have a round like this -- we asked Richard about his round and he said I just want to keep on going, take me back to the first tee -- do you need to kind of take a pause, give yourself a break and realize tomorrow's a new round?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, I think so. You have rounds where you go, boy, I wish I could just go to the first tee, as you say, and then there's rounds where you say, no, I kind of struggled a little bit, made some nice up-and-downs and I can sleep on that and get back to the feelings I had yesterday.

Yeah, I mean, I normally sleep pretty well, so it's not a problem. Yeah, tomorrow's a big day. I'm looking forward to it, it's going to be fun.

Q. And then to steal another note from Phil, how important was the putt on 17?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it was huge. I had a little read off Miguel's. It was a little straighter than it looked and you just need those to keep the momentum in a round going. That's kind of what I did all day. Yeah, that was a big one. I was hoping to have a crack at the green at 18, but the drive just caught the bunker.

Q. You played a practice round on Saturday with Richard Green. He said you were striping it on Saturday; that with your knowledge of this golf course and the way you played on Saturday, he knew coming into Sunday that you would be the guy to beat. What is it about this place that you like so much and what have you changed that you're playing so well right now?

STEVEN ALKER: To start with, I wasn't striping it the first two days. You know, today was a lot better.

I think, you know, a lot of tee shots just fit my eye and I'm a good iron player so I can be maybe a little more aggressive than some other guys. I just said going out today I just want to give myself a lot of chances. That's what you've got to do around here. Some holes you've just got to take par and go, OK, that's good, par's good. Other holes you've just got to go, OK, let's go. I kind of feel like I'm pretty good doing it around here.

Q. With two years ago to now, the wild ride you're on, is it hard to imagine everything that you've accomplished?

STEVEN ALKER: It still is, it still is. I think the thing I'm most proud of is to keep that consistency year to year. To win the Schwab Cup and come back next year and I couldn't win the Cup but I finished second, and another chance this year, that's really pleasing and good for your confidence. Yeah, I'm really proud of the fact that I've kept the consistency.



Q. There's only six guys that have won two Schwab Cups. What would a win tomorrow mean to you?

STEVEN ALKER: Well, huge. I mean, to me, I just see trophies on the mantelpiece and another one would be fantastic. Whatever ways it goes, I've kind of been there and I know kind of how to win one, so that's kind of on my side. But like today, I've just got to go out and keep the pedal to the metal and keep going.

Q. It's more than a trophy, isn't it?

STEVEN ALKER: It is, it is. It's season long, what else can you say? That's the big one, yep.

