

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY (-3)

Q. Currently tied for the lead. tell us how you've been able to perform so far.

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: For the most part I've kept it in front of me. I had a couple squirrely drives, but that's going to happen in the wind. Really, the putter's been feeling good. Kind of just being patient. Took advantage of a couple good breaks and letting it all fall.

Q. The way you played today, do you have any idea what the score could have been on a calm day?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: No. I mean, I played solid, but I played the golf course today, whatever it gave me.

Q. Was there any parts of the course the wind seemed especially bad, like 8, 9?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: Yeah, especially 8 and 9, it was humming right through the trees. Once we got opened up on 9, it was coming in pretty good.

Yeah, I mean, you guys turned -- not you guys, but they turned No. 8 into a par 4 and it says 500 from the back tee. Yeah, we played it one tee up, but I don't think there's many people that are going to have an iron into that green today with the wind pumping into it like it was today.

Q. It's like an auto-bogey hole, if you're making par you're --

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: Pretty much. I mean, I hit a drive down the right side and got a pretty good break to -- it was just in the pine straw, I had a shot.

I hit the best 4-iron of my life up there to like eight feet. If I didn't have that shot and I was in the fairway, I don't think I could have hit the shot all the way back there. It was just one of those lies that gave me the shot and able to kind of run it up the slope and get it chasing back to that back pin. It was probably playing almost 550 if you add the wind into it.

Q. Does it feel any different playing final stage knowing your full Korn Ferry Tour card is locked up as opposed to a time you were here where top 45's the number you were worried about?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: Sure, yeah. It's a little -- you know, I have that backup plan, but that's not why I'm here, right? I'm trying to finish at the top of the leaderboard and give

myself an easy way home on Sunday.

Q. Can you walk us through your journey since, you were at Chico State, D-2. Not a lot of D-2 guys are out there on the PGA TOUR, even Korn Ferry Tour right now. Can you walk us through kind of your journey and grinding and caddying and sleeping on couches and all that to get to this point?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: Yeah, I mean, how much time do you have?

Q. We've got as much time as you want.

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: I turned pro in late 2016 and thought I had to turn pro in order to go into Q-School, so I kind of screwed that one up right away.

I missed at first stage and played some mini tour events. Had a little bit of success, but didn't have any money to my name, so went down to the Vintage Club and caddied for a couple years.

Again, missed at Q-School and kind of thought, well, I don't have much time. So kind of hung 'em up for a little bit. Got in touch with a new coach, worked with him for a couple months.

Then my first event back was probably 2019 and it was the Reno Open and I ended up winning in a playoff and got a spot in the Barracuda. That was kind of the first time, like OK, I can play this, I can do it again. And caddying for those months gave me a little bit of backing for myself.

Didn't really perform that summer, but ended up going into Q-School and got all the way through and had conditional status, which I thought was good enough to get some starts according to everybody in my group. And then COVID hit, so I didn't get many starts over the two years.

Then the same kind of thing, I went back to Q-School and missed and I had nowhere to go. But I had already moved to Arizona, so I went and caddied at Silver Leaf and just happened to run into the right people that kind of helped me out.

Then a year goes by and I'm still caddying. I ran into a new guy that was in the barn kind of running his mouth thinking that I couldn't really play, so he challenged me to a match and he ended upsetting me up against Riggs. We formed a partnership and Riggs was super impressed with my round of golf that day. We played golf probably four, five months after that and he ended up handing me over some money before I even signed with Barstool. So he's been my No. 1 supporter since the time I met him.

Ended up the following year getting full status on Korn Ferry and now we're here at Q-School trying to get a PGA TOUR card.



I mean, I don't know where I would be if I didn't run into Riggs. I don't know where I would be if I didn't have the people at Silver Leaf or the people at the Vintage Club taking me as a caddie, or my coach and my family supporting me. I mean, it's a crazy story and just happy to be here to give myself a chance.

Q. So you didn't even have to troll Riggs to be able to play golf against him?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: No. And I can't stand the trolls that are going crazy online. He's one of my best buds and he is a 5, so people can stop doing the handicap stuff.

Q. Do you feel like you're almost -- not that anyone's owed a PGA TOUR card, but do you feel after the couple of close calls, and not that Myrtle was particularly close but you were second to Gotterup, and then the Korn Ferry Tour Championship. Do you feel like maybe third time is the charm and maybe you're finally owed one this week?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: I just truly believe that things happen for a reason and timing is everything. If it's going to happen this week, it's going to happen this week. I'm just trying to stay focused on the process and go through my routine. And I'm battling myself out there. That's my No. 1 goal, beat myself and the opportunity will happen.

Q. How much time did you take off after French Lick? Did you put the clubs down at all?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: Well, I went straight to Pinehurst with Riggs and a couple buddies, so we had a time. Then for some reason I thought it was a good idea to go do the Vegas Monday and I was probably still hung over going into the Vegas Monday.

After that I hung the clubs up for two weeks, caddied for a buddy at first stage. Then kind of mid, mid early November got back at it pretty strong. Then took Thanksgiving week off, kind of let the body rest. Played in a small little Asher Tour event last week and now I'm here.

Q. Do you think it helps this week having not had to go through first or second stage, having been able to spend the last two months I guess how you wanted to as opposed to being tied to a Q-School calendar?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: Yeah, a little bit. I mean, I'd much rather a little bit more time off, at least another month. Yeah, it was nice to sleep in my own bed for a few weeks and happy to be here healthy.

Q. Who did you caddie for at first stage?

ALISTAIR DOCHERTY: Conrad Isley, a good buddy of mine in Scottsdale.

