

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
January 24, 2025



ANDREW NOVAK (-8)

Q. Holding the PGA TOUR lead through 54 holes has to feel good. Where's the game feeling right now?

ANDREW NOVAK: Game is good. It's been really solid all week. I feel like I've been hitting it well, short game's been super solid. I just haven't made a lot of putts, but I've been patient, a lot of them have been very close. Then last 10 or 11 holes, just got hot. All the ones that were just missing by tiny margins just started falling in. Just had to be patient and finally got them to go.

Q. Previous results here maybe signal this may not be the best course for your game. Is that something you felt you just not had the best weeks?

ANDREW NOVAK: No, I was pretty surprised to hear that actually. I do like this place, I like tougher golf courses. I was a little surprised to hear that. Not surprised that I'm playing well here, I feel like I have played well on the South course in the past. Sounds like I just maybe played poorly on the weekends for whatever reason.

But I have always liked this place ever since, what's this, my fourth time playing? I felt reasonably comfortable out here. I feel like you have to think your way around the course and I like that.

Q. You've been around the Tour long enough to know contention entering the final round, it's a rare thing on Tour. What have you learned in kind of your previous close calls and contending moments about yourself and how you'll go about tomorrow?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, it's hard to win. You can play pretty well and still not win. Bermuda this past fall I played pretty well on Sunday and just Rafa played better. I go out tomorrow and I play the best I can and hopefully it's my day. We'll find out. It's going to be about managing my game and trying to make some putts and hitting fairways and hitting greens.

Q. Andrew, this is your fourth season on Tour. Last year was your strongest season so far in your career on Tour. What in the last year has really turned the corner in your game?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I think just being a little more comfortable out here. If you look all the way back like my junior days, like I started kind of slow, I was losing to most guys comfortable and by my third and fourth season I got pretty comfortable at that level and put up some the good results.

I got to college, same thing, my freshman and sophomore year, didn't do anything too crazy. By junior year I kind of got comfortable, got my feet under me and played well. I had good junior and senior years.

Same thing on Korn Ferry. I got out there, took me a couple years before I won. I think I won in my third season. It's just always for me it's been a little bit of a process to get comfortable at the level I'm at. I really am feeling a little bit more comfortable out here. I know these golf courses now and I think that's helped.

Q. I was going to ask approach play in particular, at least by the stats, is working particularly well. Is that a part of your game you traditionally feel like is strong?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I'm hitting my irons great right now. I'm at the top of the leaderboard, it's obviously a top tier week for me. I feel like my approach game is a strong suit. My short game and my irons are kind of going to carry me most weeks. I felt really strong with it this week, been hitting a lot of great shots, been hitting a lot of good shots at the right place. Been very happy with that.

Q. Do you anticipate some nerves over the next 12, 14 hours?

ANDREW NOVAK: Maybe. We'll see. I've got 18 holes left, so if I'm nervous, I'm nervous. If not, whatever.

Q. Have you learned how to manage that, to go about how that feels?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, you want to win and anytime you want something, like you might put pressure on yourself. There's going to be nerves.

You know, I've gone through Q-School, I've been sweating out cut lines. It's all just nerves. I've been nervous a lot of times playing golf, it's just part of it. You just have to step up and hit the golf shot. It's going to come down to that tomorrow.