

**ROUND 2 QUOTES**  
February 7, 2025

**STEVEN ALKER (-7)**



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**Q. Steven, you're tied with Miguel Angel Jimenez for the lead. How did it feel today out there?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, I had a little bit of a slow start, I was 2 over after four. Just had to get going, give myself a bit of a kick in the butt. Then got it going, made a bunch of birdies kind of through the middle there. And again, strong finish, par on 18. Would have liked to have made birdie, but pleased with the day the way I started.

**Q. Back-to-back days you've played pretty well on the back nine, 5 under yesterday, 3 under today. Are there more gettable holes out there or you just like what you're seeing?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, there is. If you can get through that first 4, 5 at par and start going, there's some 5s you can reach and then some wedges in your hand, that's good.

Yeah, I just got in the wrong spot a couple times today on the greens, a couple three-putts. But as I said, I'm happy to be where I am.

**Q. With those greens being so difficult, kind of what is the mentality when you're going in the approach there?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Just hit it in the right part of the green. You're just focusing on those iron shots just being spot on, exactly where you want them. Then if you do miss it, give yourself a putt that you can two-putt.

So there's everything going on all day from the tee shot to the last putt on every hole, you're working hard. I'm going to sleep well tonight.

**Q. Is it more mental or physical out here?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Definitely more mental, I think, just all around. As I said, you've got to be on it all day. You slip up, you can make birdie [sic] in a flash, even double. Yeah, it's more mental.

**Q. Nice to have Ben out here this week?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, it was, Ben was walking around today, he was taking it in. I think kind of by the 15th hole he was looking at his watch going, c'mon, guys, let's get it done, I want to get back to the hotel. He enjoys walking so it was cool to have him out.



**Q. Speaking of getting it done, you haven't gotten it done in 13 months now. Does that surprise you? It does me.**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Surprise? No. Kind of disappointing a little bit maybe. But I come into this year, just I played some good golf and I'm close. I'm just going to focus on hitting my shots.

I'm having a blast this week around this golf course, hitting my shots, enjoying the challenge. I think if I do that more, things kind of take care of itself because my game's good. So I'm focusing on that, just taking care of my stuff and enjoying the challenge of hitting the shots.

**Q. You said disappointing. Is there a point to prove maybe to yourself?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** No, I don't think so. I don't feel that way at all. I feel like, as I said, I've played a lot of good golf, I won a bunch of trophies at the end of last year, so that was kind of nice.

You know, I'm still kind of young for out here, so I've got plenty of time.

**Q. Can you tell us about your experience golfing here in Morocco and with this tournament in general?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, we've had a blast. Lovely golf course because, as I said, it's very challenging, you've got to do everything good and I like that. And Rabat itself, we've had a blast. We're staying at a fantastic hotel and they're treating us like kings. The prince is treating us like kings. It's been a fantastic week, we've had a blast.

**Q. Do you have any goals for this tournament?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Let me think. Yeah, a W would be good, that's a big win. But I'm right there, I've put myself -- that's all I can do is give myself a chance to win and I'm right there for tomorrow. That was my goal starting the week, give myself a chance to win. If it doesn't happen, someone else plays better, that's OK. Yeah, I'm right there.

**Q. Next year is the 50th anniversary for the trophy. What are your thoughts about it?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Fifty years is a long time, and there's some great names on the trophy, it's amazing. You know, Ernie and Padraig, who are here this week. There's some fantastic names. It's a big deal to win this golf tournament. And to be 50 years for a tournament, I don't know too many tournaments that have lasted that long. Yeah, kudos to everyone.

