

ROUND 3 PRESS CONFERENCE
March 30, 2025

STEVE ALLAN



THE MODERATOR: Steve, winner of the Galleri Classic Presented By Spotlight 29 Casino. Congratulations. What does it mean to collect your first win out here on PGA Champions, have your family here to do it with you? Take me through the emotions right now.

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, it's amazing to have them out here. They get to a few tournaments a year, but it's great that it's one that they're at that I managed to break through.

In regards to getting a win, it's my first win in a long time, so that's pretty special. I'm really glad now that I've done it that I don't have to go the rest of my career without notching one more up. So yeah, it's nice.

Q. What did it mean to have the support of all the other Champions Tour players, especially the guys that you grew up playing with and kind of similar stories coming over here, for you to be the one to break through and have them come support?

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, it was great to see them all year. I played with Richard Green yesterday, who's clearly been the best Aussie, and he deserves a win more than anyone. He'll get one because he's so good. I sort of said to his caddie, we've got more than 10 percent of the field are Aussies a lot of times, so we've got to start notching up some wins.

At the time it wasn't really an, I'm going to do it. It was more of an off-the-cuff comment. But it's pretty nice to have got a win.

Q. How does it feel, obviously it's been over 20 years now, just to have the confidence to get back? Was there ever a doubt that you just thought, you know what, what if I'm never going to get there? Where was the drive and motivation?

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, I think the Champions Tour on the horizon kept me going in my 40s. I played on the Korn Ferry TOUR up until the end of 2017. I played the PGA TOUR up until '09, had a couple years where I had to play in Asia, came back on the Korn Ferry with mixed results. One year I was really close to getting back on the big TOUR. Didn't quite do it.

So yeah, you get those doubts. You sort of always worry that you're never going to come through.



Even today you're not really sure. You're not sure what everyone else is going to do. You've just keep your head down and keep grinding. I think that the fact that the Champions Tour is out here, I had really set myself to do it and get on to the Tour, first of all, and having a year's worth of experience under my belt I think helped a lot. I saw a few times close hand what it took to win. I played with Stewart Cink when he won, played the second round with Steve Stricker when he won in South Dakota, and the guys, they're really good. You still have to play really well.

I played really well this week. Had a lot of things go my way. There was two or three shots where I hit bad drives and I'd get lucky.

Yesterday playing with Richard and Thongchai, we all hit it towards the bunkers on 9, and Richard is in the bunker in a bad lie, Thongchai has got a bad lie in the rough, and my ball is sitting good enough that I can go for the green. Sometimes you need those breaks to win.

I think it's great. I'm over the moon to have done it

Q. To do it with your son Liam on the bag, what does that mean to you?

STEVE ALLAN: It's fantastic. Liam is a golfer himself. All my boys are. He's getting pretty good recently. He's been a bit of a late bloomer. Hopefully he can take something out of it. But it's pretty special to have had him on the bag while I got the win.

Q. Looked like you were going to run away and hide today for the first nine at least, and then it got tight. You talked about having experience in seeing those guys win last year. That must have been part of the reason you were able to hold on.

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, I think so. I think I did have a chance sort of through 10, 11, 12 13 to put some distance there and keep well in front, but the guys are so good, and the conditions today were great. Playing with Steve Alker, who's won so many times out here, he's turned into one of the best players out here, and knowing Tag, Tag can really get it going, so it wasn't a surprise that once he got hot, he kept at it.

I think one of the lessons I learnt from one of my close calls on the TOUR was that I doubled the last hole at Reno to go into a playoff, and I had no chance in that playoff. Like I just remember being stunned and shocked what I've done.

But at the start of that week, if you had told me you're going to be in a playoff, you'd be so excited, so I didn't do a good job of getting over it. And today I was just kind of, keep my head down and really just play until the end. I really tried not to look at any scoreboards because I sort of talked with Liam about that driving to the course this morning, that there's not one hole on this course apart from 18 that I'm going to do anything different on. I'm going to try and play them as good as I can all the way



around. There's no pins that I'm going to be taking some sort of reckless shot at unless 18 comes to the point where you need to go for it.

I was in a position luckily that I needed to not mess it up on 18, so my driver stayed well away from the water, and I wasn't going for it.

Q. The shot everybody is going to remember is the putt on 16 where it was obvious Tag was going to make his. Talk about how tough that putt was because it looked like it was pretty tough.

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, it was a tricky putt. It was sort of downhill. I have a habit of leaving putts short. My kids call it "doing a dad" when they leave it short, so I -- it being downhill probably helped me to just get it rolling. I got a pretty good read on it. It sort of turned a little left to right early and then it was at the right side, and the valley is over there, and the majority of the green goes over there, but that right bunker was coming in, so I was hoping it turned back, and for once it did, and it got there. It was nice to --

Q. Did you get that read from your caddie?

STEVE ALLAN: I didn't on that one, no. But he's pretty good. He's read the greens really well this week.

Q. You sort of mentioned a little bit about how you were able to shake off a bad hole. You did that yesterday well. You did that today after the bogey on 15. Is that something about your mental frame of mind when you golf that you're able to do that well?

STEVE ALLAN: I think I've just gotten better at it as I've got older. Better as I got older. There's no doubt when I was younger that was a lot harder. I'd love to go back and talk to myself when I was in my 20s about just getting over it and playing. You can see it -- the best players do a great job of that. There's not many of them that get flustered and spiral out of control. I think Tiger in his prime he was the best. He might sort of throw a club or swear, but by the time he got to the next shot, he was completely into it and just playing right to the end.

I think that's one of the things that I did well last year. I wasn't playing particularly well last year, and I really sort of ground out a lot of tournaments and managed my game, so hopefully I can play a little bit more like I did this week this year and be a little bit higher and hopefully have another couple of chances to win.

Q. I talked to you out there, but I forgot to ask you, what's Liam's cut?

STEVE ALLAN: We haven't negotiated that yet.

Q. Did Liam have any words of wisdom or advice or any moments out there today that kind of helped you --



STEVE ALLAN: No, but he's pretty level-headed so he keeps it pretty calm. He doesn't get too excited. You can tell when he gets nervous, but obviously I could imagine some caddies if I'd made whatever I made, five birdies on the front nine, might get a little bit too excited. But he did a good job. He was pretty calm and he keeps me with a level head, and I think having my son caddie for me will also make me behave a little bit better, too. If I get a little upset, I'm not going to look silly in front of him. I think it helped a lot.

Q. This breakthrough win, as you mentioned -- at times breakthrough wins lead to more wins. Do you feel like your game is where it needs to be to challenge more often?

STEVE ALLAN: Yeah, I think last year I was on the edge of that a couple times. I played with a few guys, and clearly they were better than me, hitting the ball better than me. But I've been working on the things that I'm doing wrong, and this week was the best I've played in a long time.

Even the first round we had that crazy wind come up at the end. I think I got quite lucky with the draw. I played in the first group so we got most of the day without the crazy wind, but playing 17 and 18, I ended up bogeying both of them to shoot 3-under, and I played great.

That was a matter of getting over that and not letting that upset you because I was playing really solid.

The wind the second day was so tough early that the kind of improvements that I made, I felt like I could play out there, and you never know with the wind when it's really gusting like it was, you can get really unlucky, but all you can do is give it your best. I hit some solid shots, and then as the day went on yesterday it died and never quite got up to what we were worried about today.

So I really do feel like I can contend a little bit more. It's great; the Champions Tour is amazing to have a second chance at it, and to be able to play golf for a living when I'm over 50 is pretty fun.

Q. Will this change your schedule --

STEVE ALLAN: A little bit. Liam is graduating from high school the week of the PGA, so I'll probably end up missing the PGA now. I think with my status and everything, I probably couldn't have afforded to unless I'd had a really good start to the year, but I definitely will now. I think it puts me in the U.S. Open as far as I know, so that will be great. I didn't play last year's, so I don't have to do that qualifier, so that's fun.



I think maybe as the year goes on at the end of the year if there's a lot of tournaments in a row and I'm feeling a bit tired I can afford to miss one whereas last year I couldn't. I had to keep my head down, keep playing.

