

## VISIT KNOXVILLE OPEN

### ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

May 22, 2025



### RYAN HALL (-7)

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**Q. Ryan, bogey-free 7 under today, I guess what was working well with your game? Maybe take us through that start with three birdies in your first four.**

**RYAN HALL:** Just putted really well, on my front nine, the back, and then it got very windy on my closing nine. It's playing tough out there right now. Luckily I got the good wave and took advantage of it.

**Q. Being a member out here, knowing the course, do you feel like that helped you a bit?**

**RYAN HALL:** Yeah, of course. Yeah, definitely. I mean, I'm very comfortable on these greens, I'm comfortable with where the misses are into the greens, so yeah, absolutely.

**Q. Obviously knowing the course as you do, but do you also feel you have higher expectations for yourself knowing that you are familiar with this course?**

**RYAN HALL:** I would say that's probably fair, yeah. I mean, you think a tournament at your home course you would probably play better than one in Kansas City or Denver or wherever. Yeah, but there's 72 holes of golf and a lot of good players out here.

**Q. How was the home crowd for you out here? Get a good following?**

**RYAN HALL:** Yeah, yeah, it was good. It was fun, it was fun. They're very supportive. I've got a good family and a good fun group of friends that came out today, and I'm sure I'll see them again soon.

**Q. You don't always get that at stops. I guess what's it mean to have family and friends be able to actually watch you play since not every event's on TV?**

**RYAN HALL:** Yeah, it is good, it is good. My family, they travel pretty well so I see them quite a bit. To see some of my buddies and some of my not-so-close family and cousins and uncles and stuff, that is special for sure.

**Q. Conditional status this year and you made the cut last week, just where do you feel like the game's been at in your handful of starts this year?**

**RYAN HALL:** Not good, not good the first couple months. But I feel like in my career so far

every year I am getting better, it's just kind of sometimes golf is a lot of delayed gratification and delayed results. Yeah, it's been a slow start to the year but I'm hoping that this week, three more solid rounds and maybe it will jump start me a little bit.

**Q. Where do you feel you've made those strides in your career the most?**

**RYAN HALL:** Probably just experience. I played my first Korn Ferry actually in Raleigh, next week's event, three years ago and nervous as crap. Same thing next year, I got a few starts. Played well here actually that year. Every year you get more experience, more events under your belt. I think I played like 25 of these now or something like that. Yeah, you just get more comfortable and then every year as a golfer if you work hard you get better.

**Q. And before this you mentioned you used to work out here growing up. Can you kind of talk about that job and working out here?**

**RYAN HALL:** Yeah, it was fun. I graduated high school early, in December, and then I got a job out here and worked through the summer until I went to South Carolina to play golf. It was enjoyable. Yeah, it was kind of hard work to be honest, Chris Dibble puts you to work out here. They let me practice and play the golf course for free, so I probably would have done that without pay.

**Q. As far as playing on your home course, is the biggest advantage knowing where to miss or is it reading the greens?**

**RYAN HALL:** The bigger advantage is probably the greens, yeah, because you have to play defensively out here which leads you -- probably a few lag putts. I mean, I had lag putts on 9 and 8 most recently, not too many on the back. But yeah, just like lag putting is very tricky out here, these greens are lightning fast downhill especially right now and especially downwind today, so I would say that.

**Q. Did you find that the wind affected much of your putting?**

**RYAN HALL:** Yeah, for sure. On my closing nine, the last seven holes I had to play for wind, hole 3 I had to play for wind, hole 4, 5 not so much, 6 not so much, 7, 8 and 9 I had to play for wind on the putts.

**Q. So I'm getting texted by Jake Reeves. I know, Jake, I'm out here. But what about having him on your team?**

**RYAN HALL:** Yeah, Jake's the best. He's taught me since I was maybe elementary school, 10, 11 years old. He's been a huge supporter of mine and a huge help to my technique and my career. Yeah, absolutely, he's the best.

**Q. Do you set a goal each round? You shot a great round today, but is the goal to shoot the same score each day or what do you have in mind?**

**RYAN HALL:** I would say the goal is to just execute every shot to the best of your ability and stay focused and try not to lose your temper, just all the small things that you hear all the time, all the cliches. That's the goal really. Golf is such a crazy game and all you can really do is play your best, play smart and keep a low head.

**Q. Is it hard for you not to lose your temper?**

**RYAN HALL:** Yeah, yeah, it is, definitely.

**Q. What causes that?**

**RYAN HALL:** Just competitiveness, just want to win. I want to be out here, I want to be on the PGA TOUR, I want to win tournaments. When you don't play your best, it's frustrating. But today I was able to -- I had some rough swings, but I was able to keep a low head. I feel like my caddie helped me do that a little bit. I've known him for a long time now and yeah, it's important.

**Q. How much does a par save like you had on your last hole, on No. 9, how much is that as far as momentum?**

**RYAN HALL:** It's definitely like a momentum builder going into the next day, I feel satisfied after the round versus disappointed. Maybe for the next six hours it changes my feelings a little bit.

But in terms of going into the next round, I would approach it the exact same. If you have a putt for double bogey, bogey or par or birdie, they're all worth one shot so you just try and treat 'em all the same and yeah, leave it at that, yeah.