

VISIT KNOXVILLE OPEN

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

May 22, 2025

ANDREW KOZAN (-7)



Q. Andrew, bogey-free 7 under today. I guess take us through what was working well for you, maybe that back stretch to end your round where you had three straight birdies.

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah, the putter's been pretty hot this season, ball-striking's been a little iffy. Switched coaches maybe eight weeks ago and that's been a big help. Didn't make immediate progress those first few weeks but the ball-striking's definitely coming around.

It's kind of tough with my status, but like I said, I got a sponsor into last week, hit the ball really, really well all week. I still finished top-25 with some pretty silly mistakes. So to have the opportunity to be here, I knew coming in my ball-striking was going to be a key for me.

Yeah, I hit 15 greens, putter got hot, never really got myself in any trouble, pretty windy that second nine, it's kind of blowing right now. Yeah, just taking center of the green on certain shots, be aggressive when you can and let the putter get hot when it does.

Q. You mentioned you switched coaches. Who did you switch to?

ANDREW KOZAN: Jason Baile.

Q. And where is he out of?

ANDREW KOZAN: He's at Floridian, south Florida, not too far from me. We've got a few mutual friends that I have that have been working with him for a while and seen a lot of progress, so it was a good switch and yeah, seems like it's working out so far.

Q. You mentioned your status, your top-25 last week helped you get into this week's field.

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah.

Q. I guess what's it mean taking advantage of that sponsor exemption last week to --

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah, yeah, that was huge to have that sponsor invite last week. If I didn't have that, then I (indiscernible) the season, don't really know. So to have the opportunity, the fact that they gave me a spot last week, I was very thankful, grateful for that, and to take advantage of that last week was huge. Now just trying to take advantage and roll

with whatever I can get now.

Q. Does it feel like some pressure off just knowing you had a solid week last week and just kind of giving yourself those opportunities?

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah, sometimes it feels less pressure, sometimes it feels more because now I'm more on the edge where I was -- I mean, originally I was probably out of this week by 20 spots. Now I'm teetering with the reshuffle and everything after this week.

Yeah, like I said, I don't try and think about it too much, try to go out there and put together four good rounds and see where that reshuffle ends up.

Q. You mentioned the wind out there today. How does that affect it out here with a course like this where it there's not a lot of trees kind of blocking out here?

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah, there's not a lot of trees so you don't get too much swirl, which is nice, but it's kind of -- the trees would kind of dim some of the wind I should say. They had some good pins out there today, so if you get too aggressive on certain ones and you shortside yourself chipping downwind, it's tough to do. Yeah, I thought I was pretty conservative when I needed to be and pretty aggressive when I had the opportunity to be.

Q. On your last hole there you went a little longer off the green, looked like you were back and forth in between your putter other wedge.

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah.

Q. What were you dealing with over there?

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah, the lie was straight downhill. Once you get it through the rough it was straight downhill. I think that might be the first time I ever putted out of the rough, honestly. I feel like even if I got a good 60 degree under there, it would just be too flat and just skip 15, 20 feet past. I felt like if I just got the putt through the rough, let the fringe and the green do the work, and it worked out.

Q. I was going to say, were you happy with the result?

ANDREW KOZAN: Absolutely, yep. Once I switched to the putter at the last second, I was like I better get this thing -- better get this close.

Q. I guess going into tomorrow, you go off in the afternoon, how do you think the course is going to flip knowing there's probably going to be similar conditions?

ANDREW KOZAN: Yeah, I'm sure it will be windy tomorrow. It might not be as windy as today but the course is definitely going to firm up as the week goes on, so it will be a little more challenging, but got to stick to your game plan even more. When you get the

opportunities to be aggressive, be aggressive and then conservative when you have to be conservative.