ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
June 26, 2025

ALDRICH POTGIETER (-10)

Q. Aldrich, incredible stuff. Know you've been talking about it just now for a little bit, but what was going right for you out there today?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I mean, putts were definitely dropping. Hitting a lot of shots to pin high helped, so spin control, irons were a lot better. Got a new set in the bag so it was nice to see some results.

Q. Obviously known for your driving distance but led the field in approach today. You said you got some new irons. What was it about it that was going so well for you?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, we needed some more spin to keep the ball in the air a little bit. You wouldn't have thought that with the driving distance to add more spin, but it kind of keeps the ball in the air a little bit longer.

When I hit that knuckle one, it kind of comes off a little hot. So through the year I've been long over the green a lot, so trying to take that spin off shot into the wind. Now it's a little bit easier that it has that bit of spin so I'm not thinking about it too much and I can just hit the shot now.

Q. You shot 59 at the Korn Ferry Tour down in the Bahamas, but now up here in kind of a much different climate. Anything about playing up here or playing different courses that you're excited about or that's been working for you?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I played this tournament two years ago so I'm quite familiar with the layout, but it's a little different. I think two years ago was really wet so the ball was spinning a lot on the greens. Out here they're taking a little bit of a bounce. It's a little different, but there's a lot of different courses, like different grass types, altitude. You just have to kind of adjust and do your best Monday, Tuesday to get into the right place.

Q. You were a couple inches from 61 on that last putt there. Kind of talk us through that. Did you think that one was in?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I did, I started walking after it. But it was a good putt, I'm happy with it. And it was on a crest so I didn't know if it was going to be left or right, so it was just a little unfortunate but I'll take the 62 still.

Q. I know you want to keep it going this week, but coming in you were No. 73 in the FedExCup, just right outside of that first Playoff bubble. Is that something you're thinking about, is that a goal to make the Playoffs?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, definitely. That's probably the biggest goal this year, to make the Playoffs, secure the card and then come back next year with all the knowledge of the courses. And schedule wise, you can pick a little bit what you want to play, so that's a really big deal. And maybe make the top-50 into the elevated events, so that's also huge so definitely try and push for that.

Q. When you get going on a run like this and you realize you're going super low, does that change your mindset at all? Does that make you want to push harder, push back at all, or do you just try to stay on the same speed?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I mean, it kind of changes depending on what the course will give you as well. Like at Torrey Pines I was in the same kind of position going into the last day, but weather was terrible and you can't really do too much when the weather's not great. So where out here there's not a lot of wind so you can be a little more aggressive, which have to go see, see what the other guys do as well.

Q. What's it like to have a round like that, set a tournament record, and you're tied for the lead and there's so many other players shooting really low?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I was surprised with Kevin Roy's 10 under. I was standing on the last hole and I looked at the leaderboard and saw someone else at 10, so I was real eager to make that putt on the last. But it's impressive. We teed off and Min Woo was finishing, so I saw his score at 9 under so I knew there was some opportunities out there.

Q. The afternoon people were a little bit of underdogs coming in today. Do you like kind of that mentality, there's less crowds here now (inaudible) come back tomorrow and see that score. Does that make you kind of more excited to play tomorrow morning?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I think it kind of gives you a direction you kind of need to lean in. Especially if you see the leaderboard before you go out, you can kind of see what guys are doing as well. But tomorrow morning's going to be an early one so kind of need to just go and have a good night's sleep and get regrouped again.

Q. Aldrich, you mentioned just before that this was your first event as a professional on the Tour. Did you get a sponsor exemption for that?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah.

Q. What's that like to come back to a place where you received an exemption and perform well?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, it's pretty cool. It definitely takes a lot off the week. I don't have to rush to kind of play as many holes as I can to learn as much about the golf course.

I played it two years ago when I was 18, it was kind of my first event. My parents weren't here, so it was kind of a first step from amateur golf, not even college. So that was kind of a big step for me to come out here by myself with my caddie and kind of play some of these events. So it was a good learning curve. And I didn't make the cut, so there was definitely a chip on my shoulder that I needed to get that done this week.