

ROUND 4 PRESS CONFERENCE
June 29, 2025

ALDRICH POTGIETER (-22, won playoff)



MODERATOR: Like to welcome the 2025 Rocket Classic champion, Aldrich Potgieter.

Aldrich, it's been a long day, a long playoff. How would you kind of characterize today and what it took to come out on top here for your first PGA TOUR win?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: It was a big grind. I mean, it was a very long day, kind of couldn't get ahead of myself. I didn't get off to the best start, so I knew there was a lot of holes still available, still to get back.

There was a switch that kind of went off when I lost the lead and I kind of felt like I can kind of chase something. I kind of had to pull myself out of the environment I was in before those first couple holes and get in that chase mode where I can kind of play some different golf, golf that I played the first three days.

When that went off, I birdied the par 5 on 7, birdied 8, had a really good look on 9, so I felt the momentum switch there definitely.

MODERATOR: One more from me before we open it up to media for questions. How difficult was it mentally? You came into the day with a two-shot lead and then it seemed like the whole day was kind of fighting to get there and then a long playoff, I guess. What was the mental battle that you had today?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Definitely seeing a lot of putts not drop. I left a lot short, so it was definitely a grind to kind of pull something out of the books to kind of feel like I can hit the putt a lot harder but not lose where I'm aiming and matching the speed and the line.

It was definitely hard playing all those playoff holes where putts weren't dropping where I had really good looks at it. It was nice to finish on a really good putt on the par 3 to get the victory, so that was good.

Q. Aldrich, congrats, awesome stuff today. Can you talk a little bit about heading to the first tee, just kind of how you felt heading into today's round?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah. Waking up this morning was kind of difficult. I had to book out of my AirBnB at 10:00. Was out of there and only needed to show up to the course around 12:00. Drank a coffee somewhere and that got me a little shaky.

No, it was OK. I kind of struggled to eat a little bit, kind of the nerves kicked in when I got here kind of sitting at player dining, but I think that's just kind of normal and kind of have to



get through that.

But yeah, that first tee shot, hit a great drive, hit a great pitch shot and made a putt, so that got me through that. It was nice to start the day off with a birdie.

Q. You arrived at the first tee even before the group that went off before you. Was there anything there?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: No. I kind of like to sit, mark two or three golf balls, get into a nice head space. Did an interview as well before I teed off. Yeah, it's just my time just before I tee off where I can kind of get a breath in, relax and kind of get my head ready.

Q. Earlier this week you shot 29 on the front and I think it was on the second tee today you were actually one over on that front nine. Where were you at right after those two bogeys?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, it was definitely playing different than yesterday. That front nine played a little more. Difficult, like the tee shot on 2, I'm not the biggest fan of that tee shot. It was a little into the wind, and 3-wood and driver kind of, I've been hitting it a little bit spinny, but it's kind of the good spin that keeps the ball kind of -- when I hit it knuckly, it kind of goes a little sideways. I kind of hit a little knuckly drive and it kind of just drifted to the right. Unfortunately, had to take the unplayable.

But yeah, it was difficult to get through those first four holes. Even the par 5 fourth with the OB right and the big tree on the left, I can't start my drive way on the left side and play that natural fade. It was definitely a grind to get through those first four, five holes.

Q. We spoke this week about your new irons in the bag and kind of some of your gapping issues. Was there anything, any shots today on approach specifically that, maybe that pitch into 15, or maybe on 18 in regulation where you came up short into the valley, is that kind of the issue you were dealing with there?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: The first time playing 18 just before the playoff, we were kind of in between and the wind was kind of going all over the place. We couldn't make up our minds if it was hurting or if it was straight off the right.

My lie was on a little hill, so the ball was kind of a little above my feet. I was trying to hit a 50-degree, bring it in with the wind and it came up just two yards short.

I think if I got on top it wouldn't have had much spin coming back down, so I think it would have placed me basically where I was on the first playoff hole if I just hit it maybe a yard or two further.

And then hitting it basically in the same spot in the playoff, I was about three yards in front of my drive, so we just clubbed up and trusted the wind was going to hurt a little bit and hit a



pitching wedge, try to hit it a little more into the bank and let it skip up. It didn't get the skip, but I was happy to see the ball stay up on top of the hill.

Q. It's been almost a month since your last start. Talk about why you took that time off and what you did during that period.

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, it's definitely nice to go home and see the family. I haven't been home since February, since Mexico, and before that week I had three weeks off as well. So it was nice to get the refresh, come back with new equipment, not overthinking too much stuff.

I think I did a really good job of not coming in expecting too much because so much has changed. It's nice. I thought I didn't hit enough balls at home, I could have done a little bit more work, but it's nice to kind of see some results coming from the club fitting and having some time off to breathe a bit.

Q. You kind of talked a little bit about it earlier, but do you think something switched in your game today? Do you think you came out a little bit more tentative and got more aggressive?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I think it's very different sleeping on a lead as well. I think if you're one or two shots back, you kind of have the mindset of, OK, I need to play well, and there's five or six guys who were right behind me two shots off the bat. So I need to kind of feel what the day was going to be like. Saw some guys up early getting up that leaderboard. The guy I was playing with, Max, he was also playing really good golf.

After that five or six holes when I lost the lead, I kind of figured, OK, we've got to change, we've got to play like we played the last three. And that was my intention going into the day as well, but it's so hard to commit and really trust to do that. You kind of need -- it's such a big mental switch you need to put on. Once I did that, it was kind of a big game changer.

Q. Is it almost more fun to play from behind to kind of be the chaser?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I think it's big for me, I like to kind of set a target, to meet that target. It's hard to kind of know what other guys are going to do. It's kind of like playing match play, it's very different to playing a golf course where you're just trying to hit your golf ball, play the golf course every hole, it's going to be different, where playing a player, it can change so much. And playing a player, you can be more aggressive with playing match play, but you also don't want to make big mistakes because there's six, seven guys right behind you pushing you right away. Once we made that switch, it definitely helped me to kind of go a little bit more flag hunting and hit the ball a little closer.

Q. Lastly, did you throw the ball away to a fan?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I did.



Q. Why did you do that?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: I don't know, it was just in the moment. I was just pumped up. I know my grandma's probably going to be quite mad at me. I give her all my stuff that I've won with, so she's not going to be pretty happy.

Q. Aldrich, congratulations. Anything about the course particularly that stood out to you regarding your game and how you played it?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, I think the front nine and back nine definitely played different with the wind switch we had yesterday and today. Yesterday made the front play a lot easier, and then the north, or the south wind made the back a little bit easier.

It was definitely nice to get that birdie on 7 and 8 knowing you're going into the back nine where you've got some good opportunities that's going to suit my game, especially the par 5s. I was happy to walk away with two birdies. I probably should have eagled 17, I left that putt short again. It was nice going into this back nine going that I can go at some flags and be a bit more aggressive.

Q. I was wondering, you said yesterday you're a little bit of a scoreboard watcher while you're playing. You obviously had a tougher time on the back nine yesterday than you did on the front nine. Was there any point where you were particularly concerned like watching the leaderboard on the front nine and how did you prevent yourself from kind of getting overwhelmed by that feeling?

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Yeah, yesterday's there's a lot of guys -- obviously I'm teeing off in the back of the field, there was a lot of guys going really low really quickly so we knew we had to get going really quick.

Going in today was a little bit different because I had a two-shot lead, so I kind of had to get a feel of, OK, what's the wind doing, how's the course playing. It got a little bit more dry so we thought it was going to play a little more difficult, but we saw so many guys still making a lot of birdies. So when we made that turn onto the back nine, we said, OK, let's give it a go, we like this back nine, so give myself the most opportunities for birdie and hopefully a lot of putts drop.

MODERATOR: Aldrich, congratulations on the win.

ALDRICH POTGIETER: Thank you.

