

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
July 9, 2025

STEPHEN STALLINGS, JR.



MODERATOR: We are now joined by Stephen Stallings, Jr., here at the ISCO Championship, Louisville native. You're making your sixth consecutive appearance at this event. Just to start, how great is it to be back?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: Oh, it's super cool. This year in Louisville has been very special to me just being able to be somewhere where I grew up. It's just really weird being able to sit in player dining at a place where I'm here on a normal day, so it's been cool.

MODERATOR: You alluded to this, it's the first year at Hurstbourne Country Club. What can we expect to see this week?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: I think you're going to see a lot of good golf. The greens are really good, the rough's high, so it's going to be a lot of precision. I think players are going to struggle this week.

MODERATOR: One of the things a couple guys mentioned earlier in their press conferences is the difficulty of hole No. 1 being changed from a par 5 to a par 4. Can you speak to that?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: Yeah, it's just not an easy hole as a par 4. You've got to hit a really good tee shot, and then if you're lucky enough to find the fairway, the green's not easy to hit either. It's going to definitely be the hardest hole this week. It's just something if you make a 5, you can't get too mad.

MODERATOR: This is your second Tour start of the season, you made two starts on the Korn Ferry Tour as well. Just how are you feeling about your game coming into this week?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: I feel like it's trending up. I had a good showing at Wichita where I felt like it could have been a lot better than the score actually was, so I'm really looking forward to the week. I think my game's in a good spot to play well.

Q. Stephen, I know we've talked to you when the tournament was over in Lexington and how fun it was for you to play in your own backyard there. Now of course you're playing in your own backyard here. What are the differences of having the ISCO in Lexington versus Louisville, and just how are you feeling about playing here in the bluegrass?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: It's a lot bigger city in Louisville, so feel that, but especially I just know everybody here. Like I mean, everybody I feel like I know, so it's just super cool. I feel



at home, so I love it.

MODERATOR: This might be a difficult estimate, but if you had to guess how many rounds would you say that you've played here, if you had to put a rough estimate on it?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: I don't know. I mean, it's a lot. I grew up here, it's definitely in the hundreds, I guess.

MODERATOR: And who all will you have out here supporting you this week and following you along?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: My parents will be here, other family, cousins. Grandparents might be coming if they can put up with the heat, and then a lot of friends.

Q. Stephen, what would it mean to you to win a tournament like this here with all your family and all your local people watching and cheering you on?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: It would mean everything. I mean, it would be the coolest experience of my life if that happened this week. Just to be able to support an event that is so close to my heart. Jimmy Kirchdorfer has been very good to me and my family throughout the years and it's cool to represent them, and it'd be even special to win and being able to party with all my friends and family after.

Q. Stephen, you're one of five guys in the field that went to the same high school here. How special is that, and how meaningful is that to have all those guys from that crew be in the same tournament this week?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: I think it's really cool. We had a really good team when I was there, three of us were on the same team. We always kind of would joke that we were probably the best high school team in the country at the time, and with the talent came through like even throughout my four years that I played because Justin Thomas was on that team, too. To see this as kind of like, well, we actually kind of were because so much talent still going on and it's just cool. I know the whole St. X community is behind us and it's awesome.

Q. The first hole's been discussed, just the difficulty of it. Do you have a favorite hole on the golf course?

SCOTT STALLINGS, JR.: My favorite hole is I would say it's kind of a mix between 17 and 9. Normally the nines are switched, and 18's just a great finishing hole with the clubhouse in the back, just a real cool finish. And 7's just a brutal par 3 where it's got a lot of slope, so you've kind of got to know the slope of the green a little bit, how to use it because when you're hitting a long iron to a back pin, the ball's not going to stop, so you've kind of got to use that back right slope to get it to stop and to get it close.



MODERATOR: Any other questions? All right. Thank you for joining us, good luck this week.

