

THE ASCENDANT
presented by Blue

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
July 10, 2025

ROSS STEELMAN (-5)



Q. Ross, great round and leader in the clubhouse right now as it's getting windy. Just take me through sort of the round and some of the highlights today.

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, it was solid. 18 might be the hardest hole on the planet right now, it's blowing like 30 straight in the teeth.

Was just kind of solid out there, hit a lot of fairways, hit a lot of greens. Parred the first couple. Birdied 3. Made kind of a sloppy swing on 4, made a bogey. Hit an awesome 7-wood into 5, made birdie. Drove it just over the back on 6, made another birdie. Kind of put it in neutral for a while there. Then on 13, 773, hit it like just on the fringe, just past pin high on the green, so that was pretty fun.

You know, just took advantage of kind of the opportunities that are out there to score. Like there's a couple holes where it's kind of hang on, and a couple where it's go get it. I hung on pretty well on the trickier ones and made birdies on the ones you kind of need to out here.

Q. I think this is your second or maybe even third time here. What do you make of the course and what do you like about it?

ROSS STEELMAN: The course is awesome. It's a real test of golf, like much more similar to what you see on the PGA TOUR than a lot of the courses we play out here on this tour. You have to hit shots, like you can't just rip a driver and like flick wedges into everything.

The par 3s are good. Like a couple of the par 5s you need to think about where you're hitting it into the green. There's big runoffs, there's tight fairways around the greens, and there's just a little more thought that goes into it than a typical week out here, which I enjoy. You kind of, it's a little different test than what we're typically presented with, which is fine every once in a while.

Q. Do you have any -- besides The Ascendant, have you played much or competed much in Colorado?

ROSS STEELMAN: I've never played in Colorado other than this tournament. I played here last year and then this is my second time, but other than that, no.

Q. (inaudible) to 18 over there.

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, it's playing really hard. I smoked a drive and had 255 in. I think yesterday in the pro-am I had like 170. So it's just, it's playing -- like obviously they just blew the horn, but with it playing so much into the wind and it being a long hole already, it's a tight fairway, and then once you're off it, you're pretty much laying it up. I was very excited to walk away with a 5.

Q. What's your like pre-tournament routine for like at elevation, a place like this when you're going through everything early in the week when you're getting your numbers?

ROSS STEELMAN: I'll hit -- most of my stuff that I do is kind of on the course, like pick a percentage that you think it's going to play shorter. So everything essentially is based off we're working on a percentage from like 5 to 15 depending on the weather and temperature and kind of time of day. I do a lot of that on the course. I'll hit numbers on TrackMan on Monday afternoon just to kind of see, just to give me a ballpark of it. Then once we get on the course, kind of figure out how far, say like we're playing at 2:00, the ball might be going 12 and a half percent further than my numbers at home, but then if we're playing at 6:40 this morning, it's like 5 percent. So you kind of feel it out, like try to play practice rounds at different times of day just to see the difference in how it's flying compared to usual.

Q. On 13 you said you hit it on the fringe. Was that the front fringe or --

ROSS STEELMAN: It was kind of like middle of the green, just on the fringe, middle of the green there.

Q. And what was your approach shot in?

ROSS STEELMAN: I had 340 to the front, downhill, downwind, elevation, so I hit a mini driver. I think it landed just over the rough cut, just short of the front edge and just sort of bounded up there.

Q. Had you come close in your previous rounds here?

ROSS STEELMAN: Usually we're trying to hit it over, like center of the bunker to have like maybe 100 yards to the front. So me and Craig, my caddie, were talking about like I was not expecting to be going at this green, like I've never even considered hitting it at it before.

Q. And what was the wind at that point?

ROSS STEELMAN: It was down. It was picking up a little bit and it was straight down for us.

Q. Like 10 miles an hour, 20?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, probably 10, yeah.