

THE ASCENDANT
presented by Blue

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES
July 13, 2025

NEAL SHIPLEY (-18)



Q. Neal, incredible day. Just sort of take us through maybe some of the highlights of the front nine and then the putt here on 18 as well.

NEAL SHIPLEY: Yeah. Well, I mean, got off to a great start, hit such a -- just throughout the back, hit a great second shot into No. 1, had a really good two-putt. No. 2, just made a nice 20-footer, and then a really good up-and-down on 3 and kind of off to the races, do what we're supposed to do from there on. Hit No. 5 in two and two-putted for birdie, and then on No. 6 got a little bonus with the chip-in.

Q. How far?

NEAL SHIPLEY: Gosh, that was just off the green, maybe 20 yards off the green from the pin.

Then had -- No. 9 hit a really nice shot in there and got a putt, turned in 29 and that was a great start. I knew then kind of making that turn watching leaderboards that Ross isn't playing great so I might have a chance if I could get in the clubhouse with a few more birdies.

Q. And then the approach and putt here on 18?

NEAL SHIPLEY: Yeah, hit a really solid drive, just kind of caromed off into the first cut. Had a great number, kind of the same number as yesterday, like 183, a perfect just 9-iron with the wind we had. Yeah, got it to about maybe 20, 25 feet, just about two cups out and hit a really solid putt. I've been hitting great putts all week and it was awesome to see that one go.

Q. Describe the emotion. We saw the fist pump.

NEAL SHIPLEY: Yeah, I kind of knew -- knowing from leaderboards and everything I knew that that putt was huge. I figured it may give me a chance to win, if not lock up a solo second, and I knew if I could get a solo second, my PGA TOUR card would pretty much be locked up, or close to it. Yeah, it was great to dodge those two guys coming in the clubhouse and not have to deal with a playoff.

Q. What was going through your mind after 13, going over to 14, double and then a

birdie right away?

NEAL SHIPLEY: Yeah, you know, got kind of unlucky, caught a really bad lie after our third shot, it just kind of came out hot on us, and we ended up with an even worse lie on our fourth greenside. I gave it a solid run, but I knew I had been hitting the ball well. And came onto 14, I had a great number for my 3-iron and I just hit my stock just high cut. Was the perfect number and hit a great one, and hit a great nice little like 18-, 20-footer to get it to go. That felt like a bonus birdie for sure, but it was good to get that bouncing back from the double. Definitely huge for us today.

Q. You had your success at the amateur at Cherry Hills and then the win here. Like how do you excel at altitude that frustrates some players?

NEAL SHIPLEY: I think a lot of it's in prep work. And I don't work off percentages, I just get my elevation numbers. That's a huge help because I'm able to just open up my book and be like my 9-iron goes 183, and we have it at different flights. So do a lot of detailed work at the beginning of the week.

Yeah, it's -- you could get away with a little bit more out here, too. Ball doesn't curve as much, it's a little bit more point and shoot. It's fun playing at altitude, it's nice being able to hit 400-yard drives every once in a while.

Q. What does it mean to de facto earn your Tour card after not long?

NEAL SHIPLEY: It's awesome. It's nice kind of coming in this six-week stretch, I knew 300, 400 more points I'd have a good chance and to do it all in one chunk is awesome. Now we have an opportunity coming down the stretch, we've got a lot of golf courses that I've heard are great for my game. Even looking down at the Scarlet course in September, there's a lot of courses I know I can win at. So I'm really excited, maybe hopefully pop off a third win and maybe get on the Tour a little bit quicker.

Q. Given that you were 7 back going into the day, how realistic a chance did you give yourself going in?

NEAL SHIPLEY: Oh, I thought I had absolutely no chance if I'm being honest. Yeah, I figured Ross has been playing great -- Ross, right? Yeah, I didn't want to mess it up. I know Ross had been playing great and I didn't expect him to back up like that, so that was a big surprise to me.

But yeah, I mean, it was nice to be able to chase some of those guys down. I mean, I think too, same thing at LECOM where I won last, I started behind and got off to a good start and just started putting pressure on those guys behind me. That was kind of still our mantra today was just to keep applying pressure to those guys that were coming in behind us. We wanted to make sure that they knew that they couldn't trip up because someone was going to be in the clubhouse at a good number.

Q. Did getting a round in at Cherry Hills last weekend help at all or was it just nice memories?

NEAL SHIPLEY: Oh, it's great memories honestly. It's cool to relive some of those moments. I was there with my host from the amateurs, they hosted me there. It's such a cool golf course, special place, and definitely has a special place in my heart. I mean, that's where all this started. It's good to go back and kind of have a good time. It was one of those few moments where as a professional golfer we play so much golf and it's one of those few times where I get to go and like really enjoy a round and just have fun.

Q. Did you like when the tour schedule came out -- I know you've accomplished things at many places, but did you kind of circle this one on the calendar a little bit?

NEAL SHIPLEY: Well, I've heard great things about this golf course so I knew -- we play some golf courses that are shorter, you have more wedges in and I knew that this was more of a PGA TOUR caliber golf course. I feel like that plays into my game a lot more than some of these other guys. So I was really excited for this week, especially coming off a nice rest week and being able to get back at home and play some golf and relax a little bit. It was good, it was a good week from start to finish.

Q. But given what happened at Cherry Hills, like --

NEAL SHIPLEY: Yeah, obviously I feel comfortable out here in Colorado. I love being out here and I know how to deal with this elevation and the type of golf that you have out here. Definitely excited to come here.