

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
August 21, 2025

SØREN KJELDEN



Q. All right, we're now joined by Søren Kjeldsen here.

You're making your debut at The Ally Challenge. You played Warwick Hills the last two days. Just some initial thoughts on being here and thoughts on the golf course.

SØREN KJELDEN: Yeah, it's great. Golf course is really good. It's a very nice place. We stay close, everything is very easy this week. Obviously, this place has got a lot of history. It's fun walking around in the clubhouse reading about big championships back in '65 and obviously with Tiger winning here. It's sort of sacred ground, so it's nice to be here.

Q. Yeah. This is your 10th start of the season, you have two runner-up finishes, you turned 50 in May. Is this about where you thought you'd be at this point in the season?

SØREN KJELDEN: I didn't know, so new tour, new competition, I didn't have a clue really how it was going to pan out. Obviously Tour School gave me a lot of confidence and a feeling of maybe I can go and achieve something out here, but you never know. So far, yeah, it's been really nice.

Q. What are I guess some of the biggest keys for you that you feel like need to happen in order to have a successful week?

SØREN KJELDEN: Well, I think last week I played really good in Canada, I was hitting the ball well. On Sunday I missed a few too many putts so that's something I've been working on hard the last few days, trying to sort that out a little bit. My putting was good, but to win you've got to really putt well. Trying to do that this week. I think practice is going good, I feel pretty comfortable.

Q. You're from Denmark, right? Can you talk a little bit about the golf courses over there and how they differ from what you're playing here?

SØREN KJELDEN: Yeah. Funnily enough, I think quite a few of the courses we play, this week included, seems very much like a European golf course. We have a lot of tree lined, you know, this is quite an old golf course, I'm not exactly sure when it was made but it feels sort of like old style, old fashioned golf. I've played a lot of golf on courses like this. Yeah, I really enjoy it. I would say when I go to courses like in Florida with a lot of water and stuff like that, I'm not so used to that from at least from growing up. Obviously playing on Tour you get used to it, but this is more the style of golf that I'm used to.

Q. With a little under 10 tournaments left in the season, just what are your goals for the rest of the year?

SØREN KJELDSSEN: I try not to think too much about that, I try to do my best every day but there's no question I would love to win, I would love to win before the season's over. I know it's very hard, there are a lot of good players here, competition is tough. But obviously having those two second place finishes, I know I've got a lot of good stuff in there, so I'll try and push on the last few events.

Q. And I know that you're excited to be out here. Just how much fun are you having being on this senior circuit?

SØREN KJELDSSEN: I mean, this is like the best tour in the world. I think, you know, the competition is amazing. People are still working hard. As you can see, people are out on the range all the time.

The guys out here I've known for 20, 30 years. A lot of them I haven't seen for a few years because they turned 50 before I did. I think if you compare them to PGA TOUR or you compare it to DP World Tour, when you're 50 you're in different spot life wise and therefore the competition and all that feels the same but people do prioritize having a good time as well. I didn't feel that as much on DP World or on PGA TOUR. If you're 25, you only see that trophy and it's the only thing that matters. Here, people still want that trophy, but they want to have a good time as well and you feel that difference.

So I've got a lot of great friends out here, the atmosphere is amazing. I've been very pleasantly surprised about how welcoming people have been. It's a very, very friendly tour and I'm loving every minute of it.

Q. That open qualifier gave you a lot of confidence you said. Maybe talk about that experience. I mean, that is a pressure cooker of pressure cookers trying to qualify. How did that just springboard you into this year?

SØREN KJELDSSEN: Yeah, so I played the first qualifying in New Orleans and won that one. I was just one shot ahead of Tag Ridings, who was having a good year as well this year. And then going to Scottsdale, it's like you play for five spots, you know it's incredibly difficult. I had my son on the bag and it was just one of those weeks. I had been working a little bit on my putting going into the tournament and I had one of those putting weeks where I just felt like I made everything. And therefore, like when I look back at it now, the pressure was intense because you get this one chance and if you don't get it, hopefully you get it 12 months after, but you don't know. But it was just one of those weeks where I just felt really comfortable, the game was good and therefore looking back, it felt pretty easy. I'm sure I had some sleepless nights there, but as Tour School goes, that was probably as enjoyable as it could be.

Q. And you win by eight shots, that's enjoyable.

SØREN KJELDEN: Yeah.