

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES

October 26, 2025

TAG RIDINGS (-13)



Q. You must be very proud of yourself.

TAG RIDINGS: Yes, very excited about the finish. Just putted extraordinarily well. I got outputted, but I putted very well anyway. Made hay from some bad places off the tee, which is not what you're supposed to be doing around this place. I actually drove the tee ball fantastic last week. Just kept playing regardless of what I had to do. Around this place with three bogeys is not what I had in mind, but I'm happy to have that.

Q. How much did the atmosphere help push you through this weekend?

TAG RIDINGS: The moral support was awesome just starting showing up Tuesday, of course that does help a lot. Usually walking around tournaments where people are screaming everybody else's name on this tour, this was a nice feeling to have that, it's incredible.

Q. Can you talk about the last few weeks and how you've seen yourself rise up that Schwab Cup list to finally get to where you're at now?

TAG RIDINGS: Yeah, three, four weeks ago I'm driving up to Monday qualify after Jacksonville. Got a spot in Jacksonville in that tournament. It was very awesome, finished about 15th, had a good finish there. Just trying to keep some points coming in and possibly worried about falling out of the top-54 at that point, like 45th and not necessarily getting guaranteed starts.

Driving out of there going to the Monday qualifier, and got a spot back the next week at SAS. Those guys let me have it there and that was just a weight off your shoulders to get a start and try to make some points. I had to make a lot of points there that kept the momentum going.

I played really well last week. First round I only shot 1 under but I missed one fairway by about two feet on the last hole. It was OK. Things are starting to settle down. I'm dialing in the tee ball. The putter I'm always tweaking with, I'm always changing putters and bending it and doing stuff, so I was bound to fix something there. and I did, I bent it and it worked the next day and I made a great finish there.

Then a little bit of a letdown on the last hole last week not making birdie to kind of lock up some more points and get in a better position. I don't know, it might have helped me stay focused this week.

All in all, it was fantastic just to come in here pretty worn out. Back wasn't really great. Ask my pro-am partners what this guy looked like, it wasn't real pretty. To come out in the first round and play well, it was great. Got the momentum going.

Q. Now that you are into Phoenix, you can relax, go play with house money?

TAG RIDINGS: What's that?

Q. You can go play with some house money mentally?

TAG RIDINGS: Yeah. Man, this is unexpected to say the least. Last fall didn't make a through a Monday. Starting out this spring I got some great support from Rhino sponsors. They really kind of freed me up to feel comfortable chasing it and that changed the mindset quite a bit. I love those guys and I really thank them for taking care of me, and Stitch also taking care of me. So I had some support that really loosened me up to go freely chase this thing. Just got a hot week there in Palm Springs and that made a huge difference. So we've had from nothingness to (inaudible), so happy.

Q. This isn't the easiest tour to get on, is it?

TAG RIDINGS: No. It's the hardest tour to get on, for sure. You can do it.

The last couple years on the Korn Ferry Tour, people are going, "Oh, you're going to do great out there. Look at Alker, he's killing it." I'm like, "He is, he shoots about 10 under every time he tees it up." I haven't made that change yet, but maybe. Yeah, to have it come through when I know how hard it really is to do, just ecstatic, really grateful.

Q. (Inaudible.)

TAG RIDINGS: Like certainly on 10 when he hooped it from the fairway. Maybe a little bit before that. I hit some great putts that didn't go in and I missed an opportunity on the par 5, No. 8. At that point you're going, hmm, OK, if I make the par putt on 9 I could at least kind of stay closer and make him think a little bit. But by the time that happened, I hit it close on 10 but he makes it, then he birdies 11, it was over at that point. He's not the kind of guy that hits loose shots and hasn't been for five years out here. You know, at that point it was me versus the field and trying to maintain second place, for sure.

Q. Tag, for the uninitiated, you mentioned a little bit about how difficult it is out here. You've had pressure in your career. How does this pressure kind of measure up to all of that, stay where you're supposed to be, trying to get points and playing against guys who are Hall of Famers as well?

TAG RIDINGS: Well, the pressure is very similar to what I've been dealing with a lot of years trying to keep my card and making it back through Q-School when I've lost my card, fighting for that 25th position or 20th position now on the Korn Ferry Tour, which I've done

several times and I've missed by one shot a couple of times.

It's the same feeling of pressure except when you add in the fact that they're Hall of Famers you're trying to keep up with. Luckily, I don't think too hard about that, and luckily they're all fun to play with.

To be honest with you, it's a great tour to be out here playing with all of these guys. It's just a good, casual, great feeling out there. They're all fiery competitors, don't get me wrong, but it's all very professional and very sportsmanlike.

Q. You played golf at U of A. How often do you come back to Arkansas to golf or live or hang out or do whatever?

TAG RIDINGS: I haven't much. I've been fighting trying to keep status and play a lot. We came up, they put me in the University of Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame a couple years ago, so we brought the family out, had a great time. Played in a scramble and had fun that week, went to a game. Haven't been able to make it back since, but I plan on making it back for sure. Trying to get my daughter to come here, too. Hello?