

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

November 20, 2025

ANDREW NOVAK (-9)



Q. Opening 61, what did you like about your round today?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I did everything pretty well. I drove it well. Had one terrible one on 10 but everything else was good there. Made a ton of putts, hit a lot of good iron shots. Yeah, I mean, for not playing since August, pretty happy.

Q. We haven't seen you in a while. What have you really been up to? How'd your game feel entering this week?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I've been working on a lot of stuff, actually been working pretty hard and really seeing a lot of progress. Then two weeks ago my wife had our baby, so I really haven't done as much the last two weeks.

So it was nice to see some good weather out here and play a course that I'm more used to seeing versus what we usually get at the RSM with the cold and the wind.

Q. Sticking with that mindset, what's it like entering this week with a course you're comfortable with, kind of like a home game and knowing not maybe in the circumstance some of these other guys are in?

ANDREW NOVAK: Haven't necessarily played great here in the past. I've had a few decent finishes, but I think this is a course that I know I should play well at, I've played them many times, it just hasn't worked out. But it's fun having -- staying in my own bed, having my whole family here. It was nice to put on a show today.

Q. Any rust? You talked about this is your first one since Tour Championship. Didn't seem like it.

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I think the game is good. I've been working on the game, but definitely there's some stuff like on the first fairway I'm reminding myself like don't pick up the ball, we're playing a tournament here, we're not just playing at home. Especially with it being my home course, I'm so used to just whipping around here. Just being back in kind of the rhythm I guess of a tournament maybe.

I got going pretty good early, birdie on the first hole kind of got me off the right way. Yeah, I don't think there was too much rust.

Q. And I know I asked you this before, but what specifically did you work with with Randy in the offseason? Like what was the goal --

ANDREW NOVAK: Randy's not doing any golf stuff with me. He's just trying to promote himself.

We've been in the gym, though. I have been trying to pick up some speed. I do think I picked up a bit of speed, think I've gotten a little stronger. We'll see what that turns into.

My goal was 180 by Sentry, but now I'm not playing Sentry because there is no Sentry so kind of lost that goal. If I'm sitting mid 170s I'm pretty happy. I don't think I'm quite there yet. I think two weeks off and sleeping in a hospital bed and stuff with the baby and everything maybe set me back a little there. No, Randy's been very helpful and I do think I'm improving there.

Q. And a little bit offbeat, what do you like about doing the NFL podcast? Why do you do that?

ANDREW NOVAK: Why do I like doing the podcast?

Q. Yeah.

ANDREW NOVAK: It is something I like to do. It doesn't really take a ton of my time extra, I'm watching the games anyway. I just love football and it's something fun to do. I like talking football and it's just a fun outlet. A buddy and I do it, just a fun way to talk about it, shoot the crap.

I don't know, my buddies will listen to it, message me and tell me I'm an idiot. I don't know, it's fun, it's just fun to do. I don't know, I don't feel like it takes away from my golf or anything. Yeah, I just like doing it.

Q. You're really good at golf, your first career is working out well. Is this something you would ever consider doing?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, football is probably like my first love initially, but I don't know, I didn't like getting hit so I wasn't really meant to be a player. I do think after golf I'd definitely consider like high school coaching with football or something later on. Definitely enjoy watching as well, that's kind of where the podcast came from. I don't mean to toot my own honor, but I think I can kind of talk football with anybody. I feel pretty confident in my ability to hold a conversation, I know what I'm talking about. Yeah, it's just something fun that I like doing.

Q. How's dad life?

ANDREW NOVAK: Dad life's great. Yeah, baby's been great so far. It's definitely a little different, but my wife's been killing it so far. Yeah, we're doing pretty well. Baby's good, mom's good, she's eating good.

Q. Have you talked to fellow Tour players --

ANDREW NOVAK: Definitely.

Q. -- recent dads, they give any tips of the trade?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, Sam Stevens has been a little bit helpful. I think a lot of the Tour wives especially with Maddie have been very helpful. She can kind of bounce ideas off of them, ask them how they did certain things. I think there's a lot of help out here as far as that.

Q. And final one, I know Ben Griffin was kind of joking, he was like, I love RSM Classic so much, I might play." Did you text him after his win that he could take the season off?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, exactly. Well, he's also getting married Hero week and I think I'm the last man into Hero, so I've made sure to thank him multiple times, yes.