

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES

December 5, 2025



AKSHAY BHATIA

Q. Akshay, another solid round. How would you kind of compare today versus yesterday?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Drove it way better, made some more putts and played harder. Still kind of hung in there. I knew a lot of guys are going to play -- I thought 3 to 4 under was a really nice round, so happy to accomplish that.

Q. A couple weird situations there down at the end. Can you take us through kind of 16 and then 17 as well?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, 16, interesting tee shot for me. Fairway shaped really far right, feel like I can't cover that right bunker and then I feel like I'm pinched in. Just got to figure out what shot works best there for me. Really nice up-and-down there though.

And then 17, I think we probably kind of miss-clubbed on the first shot. I was trying to smash an 8-iron and it just wasn't the right shot in my head. Then the chip just got away from me a little bit.

And then Sepp and I were right next to each other and had to recreate the lie. Hard to say if the lie was worse or better, but made a really nice putt because 5 would have really hurt me.

Q. Yeah. To get that putt on 17 and then 18 kind of flips the momentum there?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, I mean 18, nice wind for me, able to hit like mini driver down there. It went really, really far. Again, that number we were in between, nothing really spoke to me there between pitching wedge and gap wedge so we just smashed a gap wedge. I got a pretty nice read off Sepp. I had a good feeling about that one.

Q. Looking back on this past season, what would you give it as a letter grade and why?

AKSHAY BHATIA: I think throughout the year I'd probably give it a B, B to B-minus, maybe B-plus. I don't know.

There was something really satisfying about how this year went. Making the Tour Championship, it's a hard thing to do. I don't think I give myself enough credit in that department.

So, again, it gives me the freedom to take time off this year in the fall and focus on the things



I really wanted to focus on with my body and my trainers. Enjoy life outside of golf. Still playing a lot, but guaranteeing majors and Signature Events, it's a huge thing for me because again, that's where we want to be. I feel like I want to be an elite player. I feel like I'm making those steps each year, and this year would have been my hardest year if I looked at it myself, but it's still a very satisfying year.

Q. Has there been a process of needing to preach patience for yourself? I'm sure you want to go higher and higher every year, but as you look back, still a solid year. Did you have to kind of find that throughout the year?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, 100 percent. I think that I don't really realize how young I am. This week I'm the youngest guy in the field, which is really hard for me to process.

And one thing I ask myself, which is kind of funny, don't know if I should share it, but I've gotta ask myself what was Scottie Scheffler doing at 23? He was still working his way on the Korn Ferry Tour, or maybe even not, I don't know, but look where he is now at 27, 28 years old.

So I just try and remind myself that no matter how hard or easy certain things feel, it's a long career. I was talking to Rickie, it's his 17th year coming up and it's really amazing like to process that for me because I feel like I've been out here for a long time and I'm not even close.

Q. What feels like the next evolution for Akshay?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, I think I do a lot of things so good, in my opinion, and to really treat each week, treat myself a little better. Like really understand and be grateful for what I'm doing as a 23-year-old.

Obviously I want to win big tournaments, I want to contend in big tournaments. I've been there a couple times and each year it's just really fun to have those opportunities and grind it out, however that looks.

