

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
March 27, 2026



STEVEN ALKER (-7)

Q. Steven, 64 today, let's start with the beginning. You go out in 30. Walk us through that front nine.

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it was nice. Started hot. Ernie was throwing in a few birdies in there so we had something going, we were rolling for the group. I got going in the middle there. I made birdies on the tough holes today, that was great. Then yeah, just kind of kept it going, too. Threw a couple bogeys in there, but I was always giving myself pretty good looks.

Q. Overall, pleased with the carryover from the Cologuard Classic?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, for sure. I think the energy was pretty good, so I just kept focusing on trying to make some birdies. The greens are soft so you could throw it at the pins. Yeah, I was pleased just to carry that form on. It felt good.

Q. In terms of the opportunities on the course here today, there were numbers put up in front of you and you certainly had a chance to get there.

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, no wind. Around here, 4, 5 miles an hour is kind of unusual. Greens were soft, you can be aggressive. That was the key. We just had to stay aggressive all day.

Q. Steven, what was the difference between last week and poa annua this week?

STEVEN ALKER: A huge difference. Even the grass in the fairways is different. The ball's coming out a little bit different. And we haven't got the heat and a little bit of altitude compared to last week, big differences in clubs, what we're hitting. It was kind of just club up this week, get it to the hole.

Q. Can you trust your putt online or do you have to hit it a little harder?

STEVEN ALKER: I grew up on poa annua. It gets a little bumpy sometimes. If you can hit it a little harder, give it more pace and try to keep it online, it's hard to do that especially on downhill putts but I think that's the key on poa.

Q. So you win last week in Tucson, you've got 11 PGA TOUR Champions wins total. What do you think about Newport Beach Country Club and the golf course here?

STEVEN ALKER: I love it. This is the best I've seen it. I think this is my fourth trip maybe.



Condition-wise, fantastic. And the greens are running great. I just love the great mix of holes. You've got the beach down there, you've got to allow for that. The greens really haven't been untouched since we've been here, it's amazing. Not too many courses you play with reasonably flat greens and not too much crazy stuff going on. That is a nice change from week to week.

