

THE BLUE CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 4 QUOTES

July 12, 2026



ROSS STEELMAN (-22)

Q. Ross, first thoughts on your first Korn Ferry Tour win?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, this is awesome. The last -- this is about three years since I turned pro and my whole philosophy in golf since I've been a kid is just get a little bit better each year. The first summer after I graduated I didn't play very well, struggled. Next year, played OK early, kind of fizzled out down the stretch. Last year, played really well a couple times. Then this year I was able to get over the hump.

It's just steady progress year after year and it's so much fun, it's really exciting.

Q. All week you talked about the disappointment of last year. How did you hold it steady today?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, you know, I've spent a lot of time after last year kind of thinking about and actively working on what I didn't have last year. A big part of that has been the mental game for me. I've started working with Dr. Chad Doerr with the Tour about two, three months ago now and that's just made a huge difference for me.

Just last year after the two early bogeys I would have gotten frustrated, kind of lost track of what I was trying to do, and then this year I just kept my head down and just kept pushing away at it, kept grinding at it, kept trying to hit good shots and that's what I did.

I wasn't thinking about last year out there, I was just trying to think about the next shot in front of me just every time. Yeah, I'm really proud of how well I did that today.

Q. Even after that rough start, you were still on a positive --

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, no, I was doing great. I made maybe a 12-, 15-footer for bogey on 3 or 4 after just kind of hacking it around the hole for a while. I feel like that was a good momentum shift for me, just able to knock that in and kind of realize, hey, we're still right in the middle of this thing, let's go out and birdie a bunch of holes coming in and that's what I was able to do. Got right back the two that I lost, birdied 5 and 6 to get them back. Was just kind of really steady for the rest of the day after that.

Q. Was there anything different with your final approach shot here? Did you give yourself a second to think about what it meant?



ROSS STEELMAN: No. It was in a divot, a pretty deep one, so I was just trying to hack it out and get it onto the green really.

I did a great job today of not getting ahead of myself. In the past, especially last year like after the third round, all night I was thinking about, hey, if I win this I'll probably go to the PGA TOUR. You know, this morning I just thought about it and was like, hey, just go hit the shot that you have to hit. Whether that resulted in 76 or 66 today, I was going to be happy with my process and attitude if I went out with that mentality.

Q. Speaking of just that, you probably will get your PGA TOUR card. What does that mean to you going into next year?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, it would be awesome. Obviously there's still a lot of golf to play this year, but I put myself in a really good spot. It's what I've dreamed of since I was 12 years old. Competing and winning golf tournaments has been something that I've always wanted to do. It's really cool to see that coming to fruition. You know, I'm just, I'm so excited that I've put myself in a position to be able to go get it after the rest of this year.

Q. What were you thinking walking up to this green?

ROSS STEELMAN: I was just trying to think of how cool this is. Like trying to look out at the mountains. For the rest of my career, you never know what's going to happen, you never know if you're going to win again, you never know if you get in a plane crash and die on the way home.

I just wanted to take in this moment, how beautiful the property is, how beautiful everything here is. Really just enjoy the moment and just try to have fun because that's what it is. Competing and nerves and being anxious and frustration, it all leads to, if you temper them the right way, it all leads to really fun moments like this.

Q. I spoke with your parents earlier and they said you had a hard loss in March. Was he a part of your golf world? What does this win mean?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, my grandpa passed away in March of this year and he was the one who introduced me to golf. It means a lot. He was my biggest supporter through good or through bad. I would have loved to have won while he was still here, but knowing that he's up there somewhere looking around and smiling and seeing this, means a lot.

Q. What's your grandpa's name?

ROSS STEELMAN: Ross.

Q. Same last name?

ROSS STEELMAN: No. Duff, D-U-F-F.



Q. And then what did you take away in June when you were in position to win that tournament and someone kind of made basically three birdies in a row, two in regulation, one in a playoff, to beat you. What did you take away from that even though it wasn't the result that you wanted?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, at the end of the day I told myself that I stood in there with all the pressure that I had and I hit the shots.

That's what I've struggled with in the past is getting over the nerves and getting over the feelings of being uncomfortable and getting out of my own way. In Raleigh I just did a really good job of just hitting the shot that was in front of me, kind of like I said.

Taking that away, like yeah, I lost in a playoff, but I did what I needed to do in regulation to come back and win the golf tournament on a really hard setup, and that's just something that I'll be able to bank the rest of my career. Like going out a couple groups earlier on Sunday and posting a good number and coming down birdieing 16, birdieing 18 that week, kind of a similar feeling to birdieing 15 and 16 this week knowing -- walking down 15 knowing that I probably needed another one or two and being able to do it, it was a really cool feeling.

Q. What's your next biggest victory before this whether amateur or pro?

ROSS STEELMAN: I medalled at the Western Amateur in the stroke play portion in 2022, so that was probably the biggest. I didn't win the tournament, but I won the stroke play portion, so that was big.

Besides that, I won our home tournament at Missouri when I was there. That was obviously being at home around family and friends, there was pressure on that one. But yeah, this one kind of blows the rest of them out of the water.

