

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES

August 7, 2026

ALEX SMALLEY (-9)



Q. Nice round today, Alex, 64. Just talk about how the day was for you.

ALEX SMALLEY: Yeah, pretty solid day. Was able to take advantage of both the par 5s, was able to hit it in the fairway on both holes and had -- I think I hit 6-iron into No. 15 and then an 8-iron into No. 5. So was able to have eagle putts there that came close, tap-in birdies.

Was able to take advantage of some of the shorter par 4s. Hit a decent wedge shot in on 2 and hit a good putt and the hole caught it at the end, kind of lipped in.

Hit a good wedge shot on 8, made a good putt there.

No. 18 was just kind of a bonus, you're really just trying to make par on 18 most of the rounds, give yourself a chance at birdie, but to have something like that happen's an added bonus.

Yeah, I felt like I hit it pretty well most of the day, speed's been pretty good on the greens thus far, added up to a decent day.

Q. Hometown event for you. What's it like having the support of friends and family out here?

ALEX SMALLEY: Yeah, it's great. I know a lot of members out here that are watching, so they're kind of yelling my name, which is super nice. It's a great membership. I enjoy being out here. I think this is my sixth year being a member here. It's a great venue, so it's great to have everyone out here. I certainly have this week circled on the calendar at the start of the year.

Q. (Question about the shot on 18.)

ALEX SMALLEY: Yeah, so I think we had somewhere in the range of 150 yards. The wind was a little into our face, so we added -- we were talking about adding maybe only two or three more yards to that number. Then, when I was over the ball getting ready to hit it, I felt a gust so I added a little more, I probably played six or seven more yards. You know, it worked out well, I had the distance right and somehow it went in the hole. It was definitely an added bonus.

But that shot's pretty difficult because you're kind of hitting off a downslope to a green that's uphill. It's tricky because when you're hitting off a downslope, the ball doesn't get in the air



as high, so it doesn't have the time to carry as far. It's kind of a weird shot. I guess we figured it out today.

Q. (No microphone.)

ALEX SMALLEY: On 18?

Q. Yeah. I'm sorry, on --

ALEX SMALLEY: I typically hit 3-iron on 9. I don't know who told you 3-wood.

Q. Do you feel any more pressure with people here you know watching you play? I can see both ways.

ALEX SMALLEY: I would say it's kind of a blessing and a curse to have a tournament on your hometown course. It's nice just because there are a number of blind tee shots out here and to kind of know the sightlines of where you're going is I think important. Then knowing just some of the slopes on the greens and where you want to try to leave it is important as well.

But the golf course doesn't play like this. Even though I've been here for five or six years now, I'm having to learn like everybody else how it's going to play this week because when the ball hits in the fairway, it doesn't usually roll out a lot for regular play, the greens are a little slower. But I'd rather have a tournament here than not I would say, so it's great.

Q. (No microphone.)

ALEX SMALLEY: Yeah, Max and I were teammates at Duke for two years. Obviously he had a good finish a couple years ago, he came close. I know he had a finish that he probably would have liked would have been better than what happened. He's a great player. I think it's only a matter of time before he gets one. He's had a number of second-place finishes. Obviously he likes it here too with how he's playing.

Q. Are you more comfortable in a tournament where it's a birdie-fest than say a U.S. Open where you've got to grind and grind and grind? Well, you've got to do both to be a good player out here anyway, right?

ALEX SMALLEY: I don't really know. There're a couple birdie-fest courses like out in La Quinta the beginning part of the year. You have to take it deep there and I feel pretty comfortable there. I don't really feel added pressure to try and make birdies, it just kind of happens.

But the downfall of a birdie-fest is you could hit a lot of greens and if your putter's just a little off, you could get impatient pretty quickly just because the putts may not be going in.



I would say I probably fare better on courses where you kind of have to plot your way around instead of just try to get as many birdies as you can.

Q. Alex, you spent some years on a top-50 bubble, a top-70 bubble, a top-125 bubble. Just curious what it's like being a part of like the upper echelon and does it sort of alter the way you feel now heading into the Playoffs?

ALEX SMALLEY: Obviously it's pretty good, I don't really have to stress about my job as some other guys might have to. But everybody's playing for something. I'm close to East Lake, I'm still playing to try to get into the Tour Championship the next couple of weeks. I don't feel like I'm guaranteed in that at all, so I have to go out there and put up the numbers to get there.

Everybody's playing for something, even the guys that are in the top-10 or guys that are 150th, it doesn't matter where you're at. But it is certainly nice not to have some of the added stress of maybe trying to make Memphis this week in you're in that 75 to 80 bubble, or if you're coming down the stretch in Sea Island if you're pushing that top-100 number, that can be pretty stressful. I'm very grateful to be where I'm at for sure.

Obviously top-50 is huge for the Signature Events for next year. To make it to the Tour Championship would just kind of be a cherry on top for the remainder of the season.

