

**SIMMONS BANK OPEN FOR
THE SNEDEKER FOUNDATION**

ROUND 4 QUOTES
September 13, 2026



ÁLVARO ORTIZ (-26)

Q. Álvaro, congratulations on the win. What did it mean to know that you secured your Tour card and you're officially going to the PGA TOUR next year?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: It feels nice, sounds nice. Definitely been working hard for this. I think at the end of the day I'm very proud the way I handled myself today and throughout the week. I put a lot of stuff into practice that I've been working on and they paid off. I just feel so nice. Besides the result just the way I felt out there and how good I felt, how confident and how much I enjoyed the walk, it was awesome, it was awesome. Just really happy with this. Definitely I guess a little bit of some weight off the shoulders I guess for the next three events.

Q. Were you thinking about the implications of winning today and knowing that that would probably be enough to lock up a Tour card?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: I definitely knew what it meant. I think everybody does out here, definitely. There was a couple of times that it kind of tried to sneak in my mind, but just let it flow, let it pass, let it slip. At the end of the day, I was just focusing on doing my job and I think I did a really good job out there today.

Q. Given the time in the tournament, do you think that that fairway wood on the par 5 was probably the best shot of the day?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: Probably, maybe, maybe. Yeah, it was a really good one. It was 298 to the hole. It was a really good one. Yeah, I felt like I hit a lot of good shots out there today. Yeah, probably that was a bit of a highlight. I hit a perfect putt too honestly. I thought I made it. Just making it at that moment, it definitely helped.

Q. And you built a pretty big lead, but when did you feel like you really kind of wrestled control of the tournament?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: Honestly, after 17. When I made the putt on 17, I was like OK, I think I can breathe. Honestly, I didn't know, I didn't look much at the leaderboard. I knew at some point when I looked up at the leaderboard, I think it was on 9 by mistake, I saw that Ross was tied with us for the lead. You know how Ross is, you know how good a year he's been having.



My mind's like just don't look at anything and just play as good as I can to this hole, to the 18th. Definitely, I kind of knew, I had a feeling that after the birdie on 17 I had it, but you never kind of want to jinx that or anything. I just, yeah, that's kind of how I went.

Q. How special is it to have some of your family here for this?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: Oh, man, incredible. Just really special. This is nice having them here and spending the week with them. I think at the end of the day it doesn't matter how good you're playing, these types of weeks are quite stressful and they just made it so much better. They made it really easy on me. I definitely had an incredible time. It was such a joy, what can I say, having them. I'm very fortunate, very lucky to have them in my corner and for them to be here with me.

Q. Do you feel like your career has now progressed on the timeline that you expected it to? Was it slower, faster than you anticipated?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: I would say probably maybe a touch slower than I would have wanted. Coming out of college when I turned pro, I had big expectations, but I definitely wasn't ready. I think my golf was there, my ability was there, but I was not mature enough. I had so much to grow up and so much to go. And I still do, to be honest.

I feel like I'm getting to -- I've always had this feeling that I was going to make it, but I kind of understand how everything has gone down for me to make it at this time because I'm ready this time to go there and compete. I continue to work hard.

Whatever happens, happens, but the only thing I can tell you is I'll give my best effort, I'll work as hard as I can and I'll see what happens.

Q. When you went from 57 a couple years ago, 26 last year, what were the biggest like improvements that you made over the last two, three years that made this possible?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: I think honestly I can probably sum it up with my attitude. When I finished 56, I think I lacked a little bit of -- just a little bit of how understanding my game, how to play the way I play, the way I want to play. I think last year I was almost as good as this one, just didn't get it done last year. It was a big learning lesson for me to kind of understand that even when things are going good, you can still improve, you can still -- you can still try to get better at certain details.

That's kind of what I've done this year. I've gotten better I feel with my ball-striking. Even though maybe statistically hasn't been better, but I feel like I've been in way more control. I've made more cuts. I haven't been as consistent this year, but definitely I have felt much better out there just in terms of how I manage my energy, how I go about the weeks. To sum it up, I've been way more efficient this year and I will continue to do so for next year, too.



Q. And what's the thing you're looking forward to the most about being on Tour next year?

ÁLVARO ORTIZ: Just playing, honestly. Just playing. It's going to be fun. Looking forward to the courses, honestly. I really enjoy playing good challenges. I've played a couple of handful of Tour events and I've really enjoyed the golf courses, how they set up, just a difference of how firmer and faster they are than compared to out here. I'm really excited about that. I feel like my game will translate really good out there. Just really looking forward to it.

