

**STEVEN ALKER ( -5)**

---

**Q. Here with Steven Alker, congratulations on your round today. Can you tell us a little bit about it?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, I kept my nose clean for most of the day really, just one bogey on the card. I just got hit by the wind on I think it was No. 4 or something, but otherwise, yeah, I just had a lot of chances, I kept it in the fairway and hit some good iron shots. All around I kind of did everything pretty well. A few more putts would have been nice, but nice start. It's always good to get a good start in three days.

**Q. With these 54-hole tournaments, you can't really afford any bad round. Everything kind of went well for you today then?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** It did, yeah. As I said, I didn't do too much wrong. Everything was kind of working. A couple more putts would have been nice, but I haven't played with Vijay, so it was nice, good company today. We were just kind of flowing. It was kind of cool, it was neat.

**Q. So you didn't throw any shots away?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** No, no, I tried not to. Yeah, as I said, I kept my nose clean and it was a pretty solid round of golf.

**Q. How did the weather change from when you teed off to when you finished? Was it much of a difference?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah, a little bit. It got gusty kind of around the front for a couple holes and then around the back. I hit a couple of iron shots, was like whoa. Especially coming in with the water holes, the carry on 17, you just didn't know what the wind's doing. So just a little bit of a guessing game, but I just tried to play a little long, just take half a club extra and it worked out nice.

**Q. You're minus 5, Ernie's minus 6. Is there a score that people have to shoot for to win this thing?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Hard to say. I mean, the wind's still going to -- looks like it's going to stay up for the next couple days. So it's my first time around this golf course, I'm kind of still getting the feel for it. I can't put a score on it, to be honest; just keep my head down and just keep making birdies.

**Q. It's got to feel good though when you have an opening round like this?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** It is, yeah. Normally if you're par or 1 under, you're kind of back in the pack and you start pushing a little bit, but just keep doing what I did today and I should be okay.

**Q. Because if you shoot, like if you're even par or 1 over, you know, three-day tournament, you have to shoot lights out for the next two rounds.**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Got some work to do, yes.

**Q. You like where you're at then?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Yeah.

**Q. Can you talk a little bit about playing with Vijay? What's that like to play with some of these guys that you watch, right?**

**STEVEN ALKER:** Exactly. A little bit intimidating. I asked Jerry this morning, said I'm playing with Vijay for the first time, is there anything I should kind of do or not do? He said no, he's a big softy, and he was. We had a good chat on the way around. His father actually lives in the same town that I'm from in Hamilton, New Zealand, yeah. We chatted about that a little bit and golf balls and clubs and stuff. Yeah, it was cool, it was fun.