
Q. Obviously a lot of golf left, but you have to like where you stand at the end of round 1 trying to defend.

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it was a nice start. A lot of birdies today. Had a couple of kind of sloppy bogeys. Yeah, just pleasing to get that start. Rolled in a couple of nice ones there at the start, a couple of birdies, so kind of got me on a roll and kind of settled me down. That was pleasing.

Q. How did Ben do today?

STEVEN ALKER: He did fantastic. This really is his first competitive round. We've done some fun rounds, but he was great. The ball was always clean. We had some spot-on yardages. He actually did some yardages today. It was great. Yeah, he did very, very well.

Q. I what does it mean to have the family of Sam Workman here today?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, a whole lot. We've got a bunch today. We're going to have even more tomorrow, some of the Beeville crowd. The ribbons are a nice touch, and great to have some of the family out, so good support today.

Q. The wind in the afternoon, did that make this course a little trickier?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, the Woodlands here, it just swirls. Trying to pick some clubs, I was in between clubs on No. 8 there, my 17, and made bogey there. Didn't have a very good shot. Yeah, it's just tricky around here. It's just picking your spots and you've got to pick the right club, otherwise you become unstuck pretty easily.

Q. (On whether he fed off last year's victory)

STEVEN ALKER: No, it kind of just kept me going. I knew the golf course was a little bit softer today and was gettable. Kind of fed off a little bit of last year, just hitting the lines off the tee and shots into the greens. Even some of the putts, all day I was just kind of learning even more about the golf course and trying to take a bit more from last year.

Q. When you're playing a course that's gettable, doable, whatever you want to call it, you know there's birdies out there, is that when you kind of think, I've got to make birdies?



STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, kind of aggressive mode. At the start of the round, I just went out like, let's go. I knew things were soft and kind of gettable. Yeah, just had to get a fast start, and I just kept it going, which was nice.

Q. What's it like to be playing in a tournament when you are the defending champion?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, there's always a little bit of added pressure there, kind of in the back. You're trying not to try any harder, but it's just there. As I said, I got a nice start. Made a couple of birdies the first two holes and settled me down, so it was pleasing, and I didn't really think about it. I just went out there and played golf today.

