

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
July 26, 2025

AKSHAY BHATIA (-18)



Q. Good round, clubhouse lead. What was working well for you today?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, I chipped in twice, made a lot of putts. A lot of putts lipped in, which was really nice to see.

All in all, just a pretty solid round. Felt like I did a pretty good job of playing out of the rough today. I didn't hit it particularly great off the tee, but thankfully greens are soft enough to where you can kind of do that.

Q. How would you describe your season so far and what are you trying to get out of these last two weeks before Playoffs?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, I definitely feel like it's been a demoralizing season for most of the year. Obviously PLAYERS was my best finish, and felt like I had a lot -- you know, I had a really good chance to win there.

And then after that it's just been a decline. Struggled with my driver for a little bit, didn't play great in the majors, just too much pressure on myself trying to make Ryder Cup, trying to win, trying to contend in majors.

I've just compartmentalized at this point where if I don't make top-50, it's OK, and at least I have my job next year. So all in all it's been, you know, the toughest year I've had, I think. I feel like every year has been an incline and this year has felt like a decline for most of the year. I'm just looking forward to playing the rest of the season out and enjoying these next couple weeks of hot weather.

Q. You said you finally switched into a mindset where you're OK if you don't make the top-50. Do you think that this week has maybe freed you up a bit?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, I mean, I'm coming here knowing that if I can get to a certain number, then it will be really great. But at the same time, like I said, it's not -- it's not so much pressure to where I feel like I'm coming here to win, it's more so, OK, I need to have a solid enough finish to get in a better position.

Q. So with the struggles you've had, what would a win tomorrow mean for you?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Obviously winning out here is very tough, there's so many guys within how many shots of the lead, so it would mean a lot. But again, I'm just trying to play solid golf and hopefully the cards fall my way tomorrow.



Q. You've been here a couple times. What do you like about this course and this place?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, the greens are as good as any golf tournament we play.

I would say for me it doesn't set up particularly great. I mean, I feel like half the shots I'm aiming either out of bounds or in the water, and a lot of holes shape left to right, which I hit it right to left.

All in all, it's a great test. There's a lot of really, really good driving holes. The par 3s are really, really solid. Just gives you a lot of opportunity to make a lot of birdies, but you've also got to kind of play to spots, which I think is what makes a really good golf course.

Q. You talked about the Ryder Cup. What would making the Ryder Cup mean to you and what would you tell Captain Keegan Bradley to help persuade yourself over your fellow competitors?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, I mean, I think I'm on the far outside looking in at this point. Look, if I play great these next couple weeks, then maybe I'll have an outside chance.

But all in all, you know, regardless if I make the team or not, I just really want us to succeed this year. I think it's a big Ryder Cup and I know Keegan's got a lot on his plate, obviously a potential player, so I just hope the best for them.

