

# WM Phoenix Open

Friday, February 6, 2026

Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

TPC Scottsdale

## Akshay Bhatia

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Akshay, if you want to start by just taking us through your round. You stayed out of trouble today. Talk about what was working for you and how you liked how you played.**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, drove the ball good. Iron play was really on pointe. Made some really nice putts as well. Missed a couple putts.

So all in all pretty good day. Kept the momentum. Kind of did that the first two days with some putts. Yeah, looking forward to the weekend.

**Q. Eagle on 14. Talk us through that.**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, nice drive. I think I had 215 hole. Hit a perfect 5-iron right at a camera guy, and then it came off the back slope to like, I don't know, five feet, six feet.

I had probably ten minutes to hit that putt because Harry and Andrew were kind of everywhere. My caddie made a good comment, like a football references that I got iced or something.

I'm glad it made it.

**Q. I know what he means. How would you describe the Waste Management as a whole? Have you enjoyed playing this tournament over the years?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, it's really fun. My first year was chaotic with the weather and tee times and everything. The last couple years has been so much fun. It's one of those events that already has a buzz; you look forward to it.

Yeah, just really enjoy playing in front of big crowds and trying to show off on certain holes.

**Q. 3-under yesterday; 4-under today. Really your first two complete rounds of golf this season after two missed cuts. Curious did you changed anything**



**heading into this week at all?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Not really. I mean, I had a better idea, you know, sending a certain message in my golf swing with driver. I think that was important. Joe and I talked about it. That's kind of my weakness. I've had two-way misses.

I found just an option to where I know what it's going to do and I am sending the message through my golf swing. And it doesn't need to look pretty to execute the shot.

And then ball striking has been pretty good. I just haven't been able to hold momentum, and this week I made some putts and kind of kept it going.

**Q. Momentum is a word you used twice just right here. As a golfer, how can you find momentum and continue it through four rounds?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: You just have to be really patient. That's kind of the thing with golf. It's not a perfect game. You just wait for good things to happen. Yesterday we had the same number on 18 and 1 and that was kind of where Joe told me something good is happening at least. I hit some really nice shots.

Yeah, you just got to be patient with this game.

**Q. If you just came here just to watch golf, you love golf, would you go to 16 to watch golf or would you go somewhere else on the golf course?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: I would probably stay on the front nine.

**Q. Would you?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, you actually have freedom to watch people. It's pretty -- way more tamed on that side. You even get to 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, not much going on.

16 is just so hard to watch golf and focus, but it's the coolest thing ever I think.

**Q. Seems like a lot of answers are front nine.**

... when all is said, we're done.®



AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, you're playing two different golf courses. The crazy back nine, like the excitement, and the front nine where you can kind of cruise a little bit.

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