

# Black Desert Championship

Friday, October 11, 2024

Ivins, Utah, USA

## Kihei Akina

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Kihei, what did you tell yourself in the middle of the round to regroup?**

KIHEI AKINA: Yeah, I was struggling pretty good from, I mean, like from probably hole 6 to like 11. I made a bunch of bogeys. I was struggling pretty good.

I just told myself I belong out here, and on hole No. 2 after I made -- sorry, on hole 3 I told myself if you just play the best golf that you've ever played then you'll be fine.

So I played good. I just kept telling myself I belong out here and just try to feel as comfortable as I can out there. There's a lot of the people here, but it was a good experience. Hopefully got a couple more rounds here.

**Q. Let's pick up on that idea that you belong here. For those of us who have known you a long time it's not a surprise. Of course anybody paying attention to what you did on the Korn Ferry this summer, not a surprise. But what does it mean to you now? You're likely making the cut, playing the weekend. To do that on this big of a stage.**

KIHEI AKINA: Yeah, I drew a lot off the Korn Ferry event. It's not the same obviously, but there are some similarities. I draw a lot off that Korn Ferry experience.

I don't know, just some of the fans out here. Was similar to the Korn Ferry TOUR. Just using that experience kind of helped me here.

**Q. Were you conscious of what it might take to make the cut?**

KIHEI AKINA: I thought I had to get to 5 just to be safe; 4 will probably be pretty close. I'm not sure yet. Hopefully 4 is the number. I thought I had to get to 5 just to be safe. The putt on 18 I thought I had to make it, but hopefully 4 is all right.

**Q. What are some of the differences you see between this event, PGA TOUR and the Korn Ferry TOUR, this year at Oak Ridge?**



## BLACK DESERT

### CHAMPIONSHIP

KIHEI AKINA: There is Jay Don. That's pretty cool.

Some differences, the course here is a little bit harder. The setup is a little bit harder. Obviously the field is a lot better. So you have to play really good golf just to compete out here.

I didn't really know what to expect coming into it, but the Korn Ferry kind of helped just know what to expect. They're definitely different, the Korn Ferry and PGA TOUR.

**Q. Sometimes the Korn Ferry setup and event will be a birdiefest whereas a PGA TOUR event par is more meaningful and you have to protect against losing shots. Did you experience that?**

KIHEI AKINA: Oh, yeah. Oak Ridge you had to score really low. You still have to score pretty low out here, but it's not the same. It's definitely harder on the PGA TOUR.

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