



**ANIRBAN LAHIRI ( -12)**

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**Q. Anirban, a bogey-free 8-under 64, back in contention. Talk us through your round.**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** Yeah, it started off good. I wasn't feeling very good this morning when I was warming up on the range, so I just went out there just trying to manage around the golf course. Hit a few good shots to start my round. I think I was pretty solid. The bad shots that I hit, I think I missed it in the right places and managed to get away with it, so I'm very happy. To go bogey free is important, and after yesterday's disappointment it was important for me to try and get a little closer to give myself a run on Sunday.

**Q. How's the course playing right now?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** I think it's gotten a lot better, you see a lot of good scores today. With the sun coming, the greens are just drying out a little bit so the ball's rolling better, it's a little faster. Also, with the wet rough, it's been really difficult. That's probably why the scoring was so bad yesterday. So as you see the rough drying out, it will be a little bit more accessible.

**Q. Lots of players are scoring low today. Do you think you're still in contention for tomorrow?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** Well, it's going to be 20-something that wins. I'm at 12, so I'll have to do at least what I did today or better to have a chance, but at least I'll have a chance. If I was 7 or 8 under going into tomorrow, I don't think I would have a chance. So I'm happy with getting myself at least somewhere close to the mix and we'll see how it goes tomorrow.

**Q. What was the difference between yesterday and today, was it the weather?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** Yeah, I think it was definitely a little bit harder when it was wetter, especially the roughs if you missed it.

But I think yesterday I got to a point where I felt like I was behind the pace because mentally I know in my mind that you've got to be at worst 5 under per day to just keep with the pace. Ideally, you want to be better than that if you want to get ahead of the field. So when I kind of fell back after my bogey, I think it was on 7 yesterday, I tried to push it a little bit and ended up backfiring. I think I tried too hard. Also had a lot of bad breaks yesterday, but that's golf.

I remember I was in the car going back, long day that it was, and my dad walked with me on 18 and he said, you know what, I can't even say anything to you because I know how hard it

is. Sometimes you don't realize it, but you see it so you can't really fight it. So I just came out today and it's a new day and just went out with a positive mindset and it worked out well.

**Q. How fun is it having your dad walking with you, he did it again just now?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** Oh, he loves it. I think the joy he gets out of being here with me is special to me. It's a tough walk with the heat and the rain. Yesterday he didn't have an umbrella and he was struggling, but he got through 18 holes. So it's nice that someone's out there sending you positive energy so it keeps you going.

**Q. Swinging it good enough to keep it going?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** No, I've struggled off the tee. I've hit my driver really badly this week and I was lucky to get away today. Hit a good drive on 18, got me a birdie, but I didn't birdie any of the other par 5s simply because I was out of position. So I'm going to go to the range and hit some drivers and try and get some more rhythm back off the tee. I think that's been my biggest weakness over the last two, three days.

But like I said, the greens just dried out a little bit so the speeds were good. I didn't have to force the pace so much. Yesterday I was leaving a lot of putts short because it was just impossibly hard for us to get it to the hole because after the rain the grass was all standing.

**Q. So basically like are you going to be celebrating at home?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** Unfortunately, professional golfers don't have the luxury of Diwali and all the lovely festivals that we have back home. I know my wife's going to be with her family, I've got my father here with me here tomorrow, so to some extent it will be good if I can have some fireworks on the golf course tomorrow.

**Q. Where was the last time you were home to celebrate, do you remember?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** It's a good question simply because when we were playing junior golf, all the tournaments were scheduled around the school holidays and Diwali is obviously a school holiday. So right from when I was 14 I don't think I've been home for Diwali, we were traveling for junior events. Then when I turned amateur I wasn't at home anymore, and then when you're a pro, especially now, the Asian Tour schedule really picks up. So yeah, I've probably been on the road for the last 14, 15 Diwalis.

**Q. So it's one of the downsides to --**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** Well, yeah, I think it's a work hazard if you want to call it that, but it doesn't really matter. I know that what it means to me and my family is still going to be the same. Yeah, it's nice we get to do what we do so I can't really complain about that.

**Q. What do you miss most about it?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** I miss just being home, just the cultures, the fun you have. You go to each other's houses, the sweets, the new clothes. You just have a good time. So it's fun because it's family time and it's friends time. I miss that, so when I do -- so in a way it's Diwali every time I go back for me because I get to do all those things that other people get to do at difficulty.

**Q. Just back to the golf, you could need to take advantage of the par 5s tomorrow especially?**

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI:** For sure, for sure. I think the first four or five holes are going to be critical. You can get off to a hot start like you've seen so many times before. You can be 4 or 5 under through four or five holes, then you can -- then you're well and truly in the mix because it's hard to come from 4 or 5 behind on the back nine simply because the field behind you is still going to play those holes and they still have the opportunities to make those birdies.

So yeah, like I said, if I can just go out there and try and do the same that I did today, just try and be positive and not put too much pressure on myself. I think I was guilty of that yesterday.