

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
2 August 2018



SAM LEE

Q. A good start, 2 under. Can you talk us through your round?

SAM LEE: Yeah, today I started pretty well. I knew it was going to be windy today so I was mentally prepared, and having played this course a lot of times in the wind, I think I was a bit more comfortable. Tried to stay calm, and I got a bit jittery first few holes, but yeah, I stayed calm and tried to make as little mistakes as possible.

Q. Do you think that quite a strong wind that we had today will even up the field scoring? Usually the winds usually aren't that strong in the morning.

SAM LEE: Yeah, but I mean, here it could be anything really. Some days there's no wind in the morning and some days it's just howling like today.

Q. How do you mentally prepare for the wind?

SAM LEE: Well, I've played here so many times, so I knew the wind was going to be pretty strong. Just expect the wind. And yeah, just try to play calm golf and one shot at a time.

Q. And you said you were a bit jittery in the first few holes?

SAM LEE: Yeah.

Q. What do you do to calm yourself down when you're a bit nervous?

SAM LEE: Just breathe and try to focus on the shot, and yeah, just calculate how far I have to hit it in the wind. Yeah, just try to stay in the present. Yeah, stay calm.

Q. You won the Fiji Open here a couple years ago, so good form coming in, good feelings coming into this week?

SAM LEE: Yeah, I've been playing well all of this year, just trying to get better here and there. Yeah, one of my goals last few years was to win the Fiji Open because that gives an extra spot to the locals. Yeah, I got it done this time around.

Q. Good to have this many locals, isn't it?

SAM LEE: Yeah, that's eight total, yeah. Six locals.

Q. Yeah.

SAM LEE: That's great, yeah.

Q. Thoughts into tomorrow's round in the afternoon?

SAM LEE: I think it's supposed to be a bit calmer tomorrow, so yeah, just get some rest and do a little bit of practice and see how it goes.

Q. And the eagle on 17 as well, it's playing downwind today. What happened there?

SAM LEE: Yeah, I was just in the rough just through the fairway. I think I had 164 to the front and I was thinking if I had an 8-iron, if I could just get on the front and roll out, but landed just short of the green and it just stopped a few metres from (inaudible.) I had a long putt to the back of the hole and I was trying to get a two-putt in. Yeah, it was just perfect.

Q. You said you wanted to win the Fiji Open so you could help someone else get into this tournament?

SAM LEE: That's right, yeah. The last few years I would have had a start anyway. This year I would have through my category. But yeah, last few years I used up the local qualifying or the best local finisher in the Fiji Open. Yeah, having won the Fiji Open, I knew that would give an extra spot, so yeah.

Q. (Inaudible) that you got through Q-School?

SAM LEE: Yeah, finished fourth in the Q-School, so I should be able to get into the rest of the big events, Aussie Open, PGA.

Q. Looking forward to that?

SAM LEE: Yeah, very much. I've never played in those, so yeah.

Q. Good start here so far.

SAM LEE: Yeah.