



SHUBHANKAR SHARMA (-5)

Q. Shubhankar, just how satisfying was that for you today?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Very happy with the way I played. I didn't get off to the best of starts on the front nine, I was level par after the front nine, but was really happy with the way I fought back and shot 5 under.

Q. What changed for you?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Nothing. I think just my mindset. I hit a few bad shots on the front nine and that really put me off, which shouldn't happen normally when you're playing. So I just told myself to be calm and just try and give it my best on the back nine and things fell into place and I made a few crucial putts.

Q. In on the front nine you started with a birdie, but had a bogey on the second and then third. I saw you were really unhappy with your chip.

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yeah.

Q. So what was going on on the front nine and what was really not working for you?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I just wasn't getting the club in the right place on the backswing. Because of that, I wasn't really squaring it up and I wasn't really hitting it close. I thought the front nine was playing pretty easy today, especially after birdieing the first, I three-putted the second, didn't birdie the third from the right of the green, which was pretty easy. I felt like I left a few shots out there.

And then I was pretty frustrated with what I did on the eighth, I duffed my chip from the front edge and I made bogey there. So felt like I give a lot of shots out there, but I think I recovered really well on the back nine, made some crucial birdies to start with a birdie on the 10th and then the 11th as well was a great birdie. That just kind of set the things in motion for me and I played really well then.

Q. Can you just talk about the back nine, your back nine birdies?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yeah, 10th hole I hit my driver and then I hit my 3-wood just over the green, hit a great chip to about three feet. Next hole, hit my 5-iron to about five feet over the pin and made that. 12, missed my birdie, 13, I missed my birdie. 14th hole I hit it to about two feet with my wedge. 15th hole, 10 feet, made that putt. 16th, I hit my drive to the front edge of the -- I was 10 yards off the green, 15 yards. Hit my chip to again, not a great

chip to about 15 feet, made that putt. Then 17th par, 18th par.

Q. So you were happy with the way you were putting, all of them except for that 15 seemed to be pretty close?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I was pretty happy. Even on the front nine I made a few crucial par putts. I had a few long birdie putts which I hit three, four feet past on a few holes. I think fourth hole I hit it past, fifth hole I made a long putt, seventh hole I made a long putt. I was starting the ball online, which is always nice.

Q. Did the rain affect you on the first nine?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: No, it didn't. It was only for two holes that it rained. We played in pretty good weather actually today. Now it's getting hot, but when we played we played in great weather.

Q. And you played with Ben An, Ben shot 6 under?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yes.

Q. It's a nice grouping for you, isn't it?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yeah, I was really happy when I saw the grouping. Both of them are good friends of mine, Kiradech and Ben. And Ben and me had the same (inaudible), so he was really happy he really didn't have to work hard, he was just walking with us. It was nice, we had a lot of fun, a lot of chitchat about and it was a good round.

Q. Is this less than ideal or what are you thinking about the start that you had? 5 under is a very decent start even though it's a very low scoring tournament. What are your thoughts on the start?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I'm really happy, especially after that front nine, I didn't think I was going to go that low. I was a bit frustrated and I felt like an under par score today would be good. So 5 under I would say is a bonus. I'm really happy that I made five birdies on the back nine, especially looking at the scores I needed, that if I have to stay in contention, I still have to shoot at least 5 under every day with the way the scoring is and it's very possible on this course, it's very gettable. Even the pin positions on some of the holes were pretty inaccessible, so I'm looking forward to the next three days.