

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
12 October 2018



SHUBHANKAR SHARMA (-13)

Q. That was a really good day at the office.

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: It was yes. Really happy, really pleased with the way I played. Had a lot of birdie opportunities and I converted most of them, so very happy.

Q. (No microphone.)

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yes, I think it is. I probably would have it again. Yes, that's why I was putting well on the greens as well and I played really well, so really happy again.

Q. Except for the second hole and the missed putt on maybe the seventh hole, I don't think you made any other really mistakes?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Not really, not really. Yep, just the second hole, that tee shot was a bad one, but other than that I felt like I played pretty solid, hit a lot of good putts. Even that putt that I missed on the seventh was about six, seven feet and it just broke the other way. It was great to just finish with two birdies after that.

Q. When you go low, you go real low, so like you put yourself into a zone like that? You did that at WGC.

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I hope so, I hope so. I just feel like all the players playing at this level are at a very high level. On a course like this when they get going, they will go really low and I just feel like even I belong in that league. When I'm feeling it and I'm hitting it good, I pretty much go at every pin and I feel like I can make all the putts. I would just say that I did get into a zone today, especially on that front nine, which is my back nine, I was pretty much going at all the pins. Just that one bad shot on the second, but other than that I was hitting it pretty good. So really happy with where I am right now and I just want to continue doing that for the next two days.

Q. Yesterday you were in the zone on the back nine, today you were in the zone on the front nine?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Almost like I woke up after the front nine yesterday. I didn't really have the best of starts, but the next 27 holes after that have been really good.

Q. You've spoken a bit about it, but how important is now this weekend going to be for your PGA TOUR career especially, and the Asian Tour Order of Merit?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: It will be important, but like I said, I don't really want to think about all of that. My goal at the start of the week was to get into a good position going into the weekend and I've done that. I don't think I could have played better than this. I wasn't really in form before this event, I didn't really have the best of weeks before this, but to come back strong, especially to have my coach here, we figured out a few things. So yeah, the weekend is important on a lot of fronts -- PGA TOUR, Asian Tour Order of Merit, so many things -- but I just want to keep it simple, just want to go out and play golf.

Q. The last few weeks have been somewhat modest. What exactly was wrong and what exactly did you work on?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Just a few changes in the body and the swing. I've been playing a lot this year and that's taken a toll on the body. There haven't been any injuries, but it's just tightness in a few areas and just not getting the club -- I'm not really feeling tired, but it's just the body acts in a funny way and it showed in the swing, just positions in the backswing and where I want the club to be and I'm not able to get it there. So that was what I worked on and that is also why I have my physio here this week. So I've been working with her and physio -- and my physio, both of them, and we figured out a few things.

Q. What's the name of the physio?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Dr. (indiscernible,) so he's here as well. It's nice to see all the work coming through and I feel like my swing is in a better place now compared to the last few weeks.

Q. Sometime around this time last year, in the last 10 to 12 months there have been these pockets where just you have been doing well, you get some kind of (inaudible). So like does that mean a bit of a roller coaster the moment you seem to slightly (inaudible,) something comes up?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yeah, I like to think that way, that I always have something to look forward to and something pushing me. And yeah, definitely getting the Arjuna Award was a big honor and when I was there and getting it, I just felt that sense of pride. Just seeing all the athletes there, I just felt like I can do well in golf and I can probably bring more (inaudible) to the country. So definitely that pushed me and I'm happy that it's showing now and I'm playing well.

Q. And more focused, too?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yeah, definitely. It focuses you more, definitely.

Q. How far was that birdie putt on the eighth hole?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: It was about 25 feet, between 20 and 25 feet, around there. That was the longest putt I made.

Q. (No microphone.)

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: 30 feet, maybe 35.

Q. What did you hit on the last?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I hit a 9-iron on the last to two feet.

Q. Which is the best hole for you?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I made a lot of birdies, but I would say one of the good holes was the 11th hole. I didn't make birdie there, but I hit a very good 5-iron. The greens are really hard, so it rolled to about 13, 15 feet past the hole, but any other green, which normal greens are soft, it would have been dead next to the pin. So that was a very good shot in there, kind of gave me confidence going -- that was only my second hole, so it kind of gave me confidence going to the rest of the round. Then I made so many birdies, so it's hard to pick one hole.