



SHUBHANKAR SHARMA (-19)

Q. Let's hear it for 6 under today and tied for the lead.

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yes, very happy. Again, I got off to a flyer, front nine was great, 4 under par through it, and back nine I made a lot of crucial par putts and missed a few coming in, but really happy with the way I played and hung in there.

Q. How important was that par save on the eighth?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: It was very important, that was a momentum changer. I hit a terrible shot and then had a bad lie and tried to hit a good shot but didn't come off. Could have been a double bogey also, but that third chip was just perfect. I think that was the turning point for me. Bogey there would kind have pushed me back, and it could have been a potential double as well because it was a tough chip as well. Really happy that I made that putt and then went from there.

Q. You never really can play a perfect round of golf, but today I think from what I saw, I think there were just about three shots that you really missed. How good was this round in your entire career?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: It was really good. I think it was -- I would say it was a great scoring round, feeling I can still hit it better. Maybe yesterday was a better ball-striking round compared to today, but on this golf course you have to really get into that zone and I've been able to do that for the past three days and that's why I've been scoring really well. But I still feel like there are a few changes I can make and come back strong tomorrow.

Q. What's the plan for the evening? For the second time you have the lead in a PGA tournament. How will you do anything different or what are you planning to do to calm yourself?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I'll just chill out, I won't really do much. I'll just go in, hang out probably Rahil, maybe with Anirban, talk a little and just normal stuff that I've been doing every day. Good thing is that I've been in this position before so I know what happens and what my mind goes through, so I'll just try and relax myself as much as possible. And the way I'm playing, I'm pretty sure I'll play well tomorrow as well.

Q. (No microphone.)

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yes, it is always great when you're playing back home and this is home for us in Asia. I feel that I'll get a lot of support tomorrow. I did get a lot of support

today and it just pushes you, inspires you to do well.

Q. Share your thoughts on a very exciting day.

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yes, very good day today. Got off to a great start on the front nine and made a lot of crucial putts on the back nine, so very happy with the way I played.

Q. I think it's always important to get off to a hot start, isn't it, especially for your first nine today?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yes, I think it's always important to get off to a good start, but especially on this course where everyone's just going low. Just look at Marc's start today, he started birdie-birdie. So you have to have your foot on the pedal from the first one and I was happy that I could make a few birdies of my own in the first five holes and a few crucial par saves, especially on the eighth that I chipped in for par, that really kept the round going.

Q. It's going to be an important day for you tomorrow, but playing in Malaysia, a place where you've won before, how are you feeling?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Really happy. Asia is our home and it's always good when you're playing well in front of home crowd. It was evident today I got a lot of support from people who came out and also on the 18th when I got a good ovation. So I'm really happy that I'm back and I'll give it my best tomorrow.

Q. Playing in Asia, hot weather, wind, strong wind (inaudible.)

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: I prefer playing in hot conditions. Today actually was a good day, it wasn't very hot. I've grown up playing in this weather since I've been playing golf, it gets really hot in the summer. So definitely hot weather is an advantage for me. I can play in colder weather also, but when it gets too cold, it's kind of tough to open up your body, so definitely this compared to cold weather.

Q. Will Mexico help you tomorrow being faced with a similar situation?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yes, it will help definitely. I was asked this question before. Good thing is that I've been in this position before and I'm in it again. But the good thing also is that we're in Asia and I'm going to get a lot of support from all the fans. I know what to do and what not to do, so I'll just try and relax as much as possible and come back tomorrow strong.

Q. It seems that day 3, day 4 is when you make your move. Can I safely assume that you're learning the course as you go, so day one you get used to it, second day, third day you already know what to do?

SHUBHANKAR SHARMA: Yeah, not only me, I think all the players. On this golf course

you have to be good with your strategy, but it's all about hitting it as close as possible from the fairways because you're hitting short irons on every hole. I know tomorrow it's an open tournament, it's anyone's tournament tomorrow, so it's all about getting off to a good start and just trying to go as low as possible. Anything is possible until the 18th hole tomorrow, so I'm not going to think too much about what is going to happen and just trying to make birdie as much as possible and we'll see what happens in the end.