
Q. It's been a long two days, but man, 5 under around the Riv, pretty sweet.

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah, I'll take anything under par around this golf course. It's a great course, really challenges every part of your game, so I'm happy with what today yielded.

Q. How many rounds of golf have you played here now?

KRAMER HICKOK: This is my third round. I played nine holes in both -- on Monday and Tuesday, and then played 18 holes before. So still learning a lot about this golf course, but trying to be as smart as possible, talk to the guys and try to pick their brains about the ins and outs of Riviera.

Q. There's so much talk about the young guys not understanding how to really play the game of golf because you guys are blessed with length, it's like just smash it. You can't do that here, can you? You've got to play chess here, you don't play checkers, you've got to figure out what angle you want?

KRAMER HICKOK: Absolutely. And this golf course, that's why it's so great. You have to think your way around. Take No. 10, it's playing 272 to the front today and it's playing 4.5 stroke average, so it's playing half a shot over par. It's playing as hard as some par 5s we'll see this year and it's a 300-yard hole. It's one of those holes -- and that's not the only one out here.

There's plenty of spots where you're just picking your brain, take your medicine, stay below the hole, play as smart as possible. It gets difficult when you lose a little bit of patience and maybe you're not seeing the putts drop or maybe you're just trying to force birdies, so you've got to stay patient out here and just let the chips fall where they will.

Q. When you got a golf course like this and the greens are soft and you want to keep it below the hole, you do but how hard has it been to control distance into the green and control that ball from moving big on the ground once you've hit it into the green?

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah, it is hard with the wedges. You've got to do a lot of off-speed wedges, but coming off of last week at Pebble, this place feels firm. We were all backing up 5-irons out of the middle of the fairway and 8-irons out of the rough, so last week was a bunch of 9-irons from 100, 110 yards. Honestly, this week it feels firm. It feels a lot easier because of that. Pebble was so soft that it played difficult, and when the winds sped up and the severity of the greens, it became very, very tricky. But this week I think -- if you played last week, I think you'll be okay playing this week.

Q. And you're in short sleeves right now, that's the other bonus, right?

KRAMER HICKOK: I didn't plan on wearing this today, honestly. I thought it was supposed to rain this afternoon. We have blue skies and hopefully that's a good foreshadow for the rest of the week.

Q. You were a spectator here in '12?

KRAMER HICKOK: I was.

Q. What do you remember from that?

KRAMER HICKOK: I remember Dylan Frittelli making a 30-footer to win the national championship and running to jump on him. That's about it. That's really my experience with Riviera. I've only played 54 holes now around this golf course. So I got to watch a little bit of golf back then, kind of pick up on a few things, but I'm trying to learn as much as possible every day.

Q. Your results wouldn't suggest this, but have you felt like something like this has been coming, you've been building towards this sort of --

KRAMER HICKOK: No, no, no. I had --

Q. Glad you're honest.

KRAMER HICKOK: I had one of my best ball-striking weeks last week and it's kind of been a struggle. I had my coach out here this week thankfully, Cameron McCormick, and we hit balls for about four hours trying to get -- just working on some lower body movement, something I've been struggling with. We seemed to grind it out and basically just get -- I played really well with this feel before, I've won within it in Canada, I've won with that feel on the Web last year in the Finals, so it's a feel that I know I can go out and trust under pressure and play good golf. It's a little bit surprising, but the amount of work we put in, it's the same.

Q. Given your lack of experience, did you ask Jordan any tips at all?

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah. We played the back nine on Tuesday, which was good because I played the front and I feel like the back nine's a little bit more tricky, especially given 10, I mean that's all you need to see. Everyone thinks of 10 as a birdie hole because you can hit 3-wood at the front edge, and he's like it's not, it plays 4.5. So it plays just as hard as some par 5s do this year and it's having that sort of mentality going into the hole, it makes it a lot easier.

I was actually planning on laying up this week, but talking to him, he kind of convinced me

into hitting driver. Made par today, so I guess it worked out.

Q. You were honest about your form. Were you surprised to see him up there at 7 under when you were coming in?

KRAMER HICKOK: No, of course not. Jordan's a stud. Everyone gives him such a hard time because his standards are so high, and they're just as high for himself. But he's one of the best in the world and he can go shoot 7, 8 under at any moment. If the putter heats up, his driver heats up, he'll be just fine. Today the course played easy. We had a lot of easy considering how hard it can play as soft as the conditions are. Some tees are moved up. Only planning on this place playing a little bit harder and firmer as the week goes on.