

TROY MERRITT (-8)

Q. Troy, we're through 36 holes. Just some thoughts on your play so far at the 3M Open?

TROY MERRITT: I hit the ball really well off the tee. I think I only missed three fairways for the first two rounds, which really helps out here. They've had a lot of rain lately and the rough is nice and lush. If you play from the fairway, give yourself a chance for birdies. I didn't hit the ball overly close yesterday and I had a couple silly mistakes, only shot one under, but today I cleaned it up, I took care of the par 5s today and as a result scored six shots lower than yesterday.

Q. You're feeling a lot of local support out there a little bit?

TROY MERRITT: Yeah. It was funny, they were a lot louder today when more birdies were going in. Hopefully we can continue that this weekend and see how loud we can get them.

Q. Take us through the eagle.

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, it's nice. On that hole, if you kind of cut the dogleg on the right a little bit, give yourself chance to get up near the green. We had a good pin location where you can't really get to it on your second shot, but you can kind of bail out to the right and have a pretty straightforward little chip. I just nipped it nicely, read it well and it went right in, right in the center. So it's nice when that happens.

Q. How about the stretch on the back nine of birdies, did you have any that stick out, any bombs or anything like that?

TROY MERRITT: The only thing that really sticks out before even that stretch, I made a nice eight-footer for bogey on nine to kind of keep the momentum going.

And then yeah, that back side, just hit the ball well, rolled some nice putts in and just kind of took care of business. Yeah, it's fun when 6 under in nine holes just kind of seems fairly simple. It doesn't happen very much, but it did today.

Q. How do you celebrate tonight?

TROY MERRITT: I'm going to go to the Twins game tonight.

Q. What's the last year been like just with the surgeries, to come here?

TROY MERRITT: Different. I mean, I've never had to go into the night before for anything or ever had to go through rehab for anything, so that was just kind of take it one day at a time. As a result, we rehabbed well and got back pretty quick.

Yeah, my ball-striking's been pretty solid ever since April when I got back. I had a couple rounds where it kind of got sideways, but for the most part it's pretty solid. You know, if we can just heat that putter up kind of like it was today, it's been pretty cold all year, we'll have some better scores.

Q. Were there ever moments of doubt like going through rehab, just kind of working your way back from that?

TROY MERRITT: No. I think the nice thing is ignorance is bliss kind of thing. I didn't know what to expect, just kind of listened to the professionals and take their advice and work as hard as I could, and as a result I got back out here pretty quick.

Q. I know you're motivated for this week anyway, but after last week in Detroit, did you have some extra motivation coming into this?

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, last week was a little strange. I didn't get to see the golf course until Thursday. I was flying all over the country, I had some family stuff. I just never really felt comfortable. Had poor tempo in my swing and my driver was terrible last week.

That was the main focus this week, put some time in with the driver. Obviously I know the course, I've played it six, 10 times before the tournament having gone to high school just down the road. Still needed to find the driver. Just because you know a golf course doesn't mean you're going to play it well, so we've done a good job with that and hopefully we continue this weekend.

Q. You don't get many home games in this profession. Does this feel like one?

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, I have a lot of family and friends here. I live 1,500 miles away right now, but knowing the area, kind of knowing where to go and seeing a lot of familiar faces, it's been nice. We don't get that most weeks.

Q. How many people do you have here?

TROY MERRITT: Several.