



**TROY MERRITT (-13)**

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**Q. Troy, what a big par for you on that final hole. I know you were excited. You kind of grinded around the entire day and ground out a par on 18 and keeps you in the tournament.**

**TROY MERRITT:** Yeah, the tee game kind of went wayward today. I think the first round I missed three fairways and today missed five fairways and had four chip-outs out of those five missed fairways. Scored well, grinded out a 2-under par on the front side. Yeah, that birdie par finish was pretty huge, gives me a better chance tomorrow.

**Q. You know you hit just 12 greens but you were five of six scrambling. You made 102 feet in putts. I thought it was a day where the tournament could have gotten away from you. As it is, you're right in there going into the final round.**

**TROY MERRITT:** Yeah, you know, those holes that we hit it offline and chipped out, played smart and got it up around the greens where we knew we could get up and down from. The only one we didn't get up and down was on 15, but other than that.

Yeah, solid day. The putter was pretty good. It's been a bit of a struggle this year with the putter, which is a little unusual, but rolling it well this week and hopefully that continues tomorrow.

**Q. How has the week been? You have so many local ties to the community. Has it been fun? Too many demands on your time? Tell me about your week.**

**TROY MERRITT:** No, it's been a lot of fun. It's been very stress-free and I've actually quite enjoyed it. I could see some family and some friends and got to see a Twins game. Haven't been down to Target Field since they opened almost 10 years ago. It's been lot of fun. See some old sights. Things have changed a little bit since I was around here, but yeah, just looking forward to some more fun tomorrow.

**Q. I want to know if a par on 18 can vault you into the final round, give you some momentum; is that possible?**

**TROY MERRITT:** Absolutely. Obviously keeps you one shot closer to the leaders if it ends up being 15, 16 or what have you. It was a battle today for the first nine holes, first eight holes really, and then looked like I knew how to play golf there for about seven, eight holes. Then yeah, had to grind out a pretty tough par on 18 there. Put myself into some stressful spots, but nonetheless, hung around. It's nice to be able to post 66 instead of 70 or 71 and hopefully that gives us a better shot for tomorrow.

**Q. How exciting or how fun would it be to do another one in tomorrow and be in contention at the end here in Minnesota?**

**TROY MERRITT:** Yeah, it would be pretty cool. I mean, I haven't played the front nine overly well this week. I think I'm 3 under on the front side. So if we can get off to a better start and kind of maintain the play that we've had on the back nine, I think we might have a chance come the end of the day.

**Q. Did you wait out the rain delay last night?**

**TROY MERRITT:** Yep, we were there for an hour waiting. We'd be playing in that stuff, you know. No, it was fun to get down there. Left after six innings and the rain just started, so maybe we should have stayed.

**Q. You see a first-place baseball team, come here, can you get some juice from watching some other guys play in first place?**

**TROY MERRITT:** It's always fun to go and watch other athletes or anybody at the top of their profession and just kind of see how they operate, how they get around things, and last night was no different. It was fun, but you also paid attention to see what's going on and if you can pick up one or two little things and incorporate it into your game. Not sure I picked one up last night, but typically kind of looking out for it. I did like the energy and the hustle the Twins had last night. Seems like it was lacking the last couple series and last night we saw some really nice double plays turned and they hit the ball well and it was just fun to see them having fun.

**Q. What do you think of these 20-year-olds, what they're doing out here?**

**TROY MERRITT:** Yeah, they're pretty good, aren't they? They're pretty good. Obviously they have their whole careers ahead of them. You always want to come out here right away and have success, but that's really hard to do. But yeah, these kids are doing well and that's good for the game.

**Q. There's been a lot of low scores the last couple of days. Do you go at it going, "I've got to shoot a number," or do you just go at it going, "I've got to go as low as I can"?**

**TROY MERRITT:** You kind of have to know where you are not only on the leaderboard but your position on each hole and where flags are and kind of attack when you can, maybe shy away from a few things. You know you're going to have to go make birdies. We're sitting at 13 under and we thought at the beginning we could be closer to 20, the winner.

So that's another good solid round of golf tomorrow, so we'll just take it one shot at a time, add them up at the end and see what happens.