

WEBB SIMPSON ( -6)

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**Q. Webb, well done, 6-under 64. And I thought things really -- you were 1 under through the first 11, then you go to three, four and five, birdie from off the fringe at three and then you got another birdie and then an eagle. That really got you going.**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** It did. It was a bit of a shaky start, kind of even par through I guess seven holes. It was just kind of a weird day. I mean, I felt like I got away with a couple, but then I also let a couple go. So very thrilled with 6 under considering kind of how it started out. Had to get it up and down on 10 and 11, missed the green on 13 and 14. So happy where I am and, you know, obviously day one, in a good spot.

**Q. Were you surprised they gave you preferred lies this morning?**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** No. You know, we got so much rain last night, and as players, it's never a bad thing for us. You know, why take the chance of having mud on the ball where you drive in the fairway, it becomes a little bit of luck, you know, kind of guessing which way the mud's going to make the ball go. So I'm glad they did what they did.

**Q. What is it about this place? You've won here, you've had five other top-10s, second a year ago, third the year before that. Is it just a comfort level on this golf course?**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** It is. I mean, I love the Bermudagrass, I love having options off the tee, hitting different clubs, undulating greens. I think the whole thing -- you know, my brother lives here, went to Wake 30 minutes down the road, I just feel very comfortable here and always love coming here.

**Q. You want to make that Presidents Cup team. Are you going to text Tiger today what you shot?**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** No, he's watching, he's watching. Maybe I'll text him on Sunday if I play well, so we'll see.

**Q. Webb, excellent start. I guess that shows the key is to not get down on yourself early in a round.**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** Yes.

**Q. Comments on the day?**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** Yeah. I bogeyed, or I had the potential to bogey the first couple holes missing the greens, and then I missed the green on 13 and 14, so wasn't my best start ball-striking wise. But I did hang in there, birdied 17, 18. And if I had turned at 1 under -- I turned at 2 under, but if I had turned at 1 under, I would have taken it considering the spots I was in on the back nine. And then on the front, kind of kick-started it with birdie-birdie-eagle on three, four, five.

**Q. Talk about your birdie on 18.**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** Eighteen was a great birdie because it's a tough hole. It's one of the tougher holes out here. And that pin, you'll see some birdies out there today, but it's also tricky if you miss it long or short, so that was good for me. Turning at 2 under, I felt like I made a few good swings on 16 through 18. It was a nice little pick-me-up for the front nine.

**Q. How much is the Presidents Cup sitting there as an incentive over these next couple weeks for you?**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** A lot. I mean, it's -- you're not out there thinking about it over shots, but I mean, it's on your mind all the time. I mean, especially for me, this will be a special one to make because it was my first team event in '11. Tiger Woods is the captain. You know, if you would have told me at 8 years old that I would have a chance to play for Tiger Woods one day, it would have been, you know, an amazing thought.

So there's a lot of reasons I want to make the team. You know, Jim Furyk told me in 2011, he said when you get done with your career, you'll remember these team events more than any of your wins, and it's true. The five that I made are some of the best memories I've ever had, so I want to be there.

**Q. You've got to be happy overall with where you're at?**

**WEBB SIMPSON:** Yeah. You know, you guys have heard it said, you can shoot yourself out of a tournament in round one, but you can't win it. So I didn't shoot myself out and I'm in good shape for tomorrow. I'm sure starting tomorrow I'll be two or three back, maybe more. Guys might go out and shoot low numbers in the morning, but it's about all I can do today.