

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
October 10, 2019



COLE HAMMER (-5)

Q. Cole, sponsor's exemption to play in the event, a little 5 under par round of golf. Pretty solid day?

COLE HAMMER: Yeah, no kidding. That's not a bad start in my book, that's for sure.

Q. So what do you think about going into tomorrow? Playing early you're going to have a little time off. What are your thoughts going into Friday?

COLE HAMMER: I'm just going to rest and relax and cheer my Astros on tonight, should be a good game. Have a little later tee time tomorrow, so get to sleep in and come out here and warm up. But yeah, I'm just planning on relaxing the rest of the day.

Q. So smart one watching it at home as opposed to trying to get over there and watch that game tonight at the stadium?

COLE HAMMER: I don't know. I'm going to do everything I can to try to get to the stadium. I think it's going to be a great atmosphere. I'm a huge Astros fan, have been for as long as I can remember. I'm praying for tonight.

Q. Well, I'm a Dodgers fan and it wasn't so much fun for us last night at home, but hey, go win one here at home, all right?

COLE HAMMER: Thank you very much. Going to try.

Q. You said yesterday coming in you had expectations more than just to make the cut. Would you say you fulfilled those today in goals?

COLE HAMMER: One hundred percent. I think I would have taken 5 under par every day of the week at I guess my second PGA TOUR start. Feels like my first U.S. Open was so long ago. Yeah, I was a little bit nervous at the beginning of the round and then kind of settled down and was able to roll in some putts and it was a great start. Just what I wanted.

Q. You're familiar with the course obviously from the PGA TOUR guys, the conditions are a little different because of the bermudagrass. How did that play for you out there?

COLE HAMMER: It's a lot different. The only time I ever played this course was when it was overseed and it plays completely different. The rough is thicker. There used to be no rough out here. Also, the greens I would say are probably a little firmer. It's fun to see this

golf course like this. It's a lot different. And I don't know, it's what I've grown up on, so I was fairly used to it out there.

Q. You mentioned putting, getting to roll the ball really well today. What part of your game gives you the most confidence now?

COLE HAMMER: I think I didn't hit a whole lot of fairways today, but usually the strength of my game is putting the ball in play off the tee and then kind of wedging it around the greens. I was able to do that very well, scrambled early and kept myself in it. Then finally started hitting the ball to like 15, 20 feet and rolled some of those in. So that's kind of what gave me the best chance to play well today.

Q. You had some family here obviously. Was the gallery decent sized for you?

COLE HAMMER: Yeah. I think it's probably smaller than what it will be tomorrow afternoon just because it was an early morning tee time, people have things to do. But I had some family and friends come out. I had one of my best friends drive down from Norman, left at 4:30 a.m. this morning, so that was very nice of him to come down. Yeah, I had a solid crowd out there and it was fun hearing them cheer for me when I would make birdie.