



DAWIE VAN DER WALT (-4)

Q. Well played out there, 4 under par on that golf course. 4 under par heading into the weekend. What were your expectations coming into this week? You're on a sponsor's exemption, you live locally, you played on the PGA TOUR before, you played a lot of golf, but what are your expectations like this week?

DAWIE VAN DER WALT: Just to play well. Adds a little bit of pressure when you get an invite and you're local. You've got a couple of people, friends and stuff, following you, so obviously you want to play well. That's my expectation is to play well. I don't expect to win, but I'm glad to make the weekend and maybe if I can finish top-20 or so, I'll be happy.

Q. Living locally, have you had a chance to play here before this week?

DAWIE VAN DER WALT: So I played this golf course right when it opened, opening day. It's 45 minutes from my house and there's always so many people playing here. I was thinking about coming down and playing it when I found out I was in, but the golf course was closed, so I didn't really get a whole lot of opportunity to play it. I just played it Monday. It's not like a local, like I know the golf course, local knowledge.

Q. As someone who's played all over the world, you come to a venue like this, tell our listeners if a player came here to play, what would they expect?

DAWIE VAN DER WALT: Kind of like links style in the middle of Houston. There's a lot of shots like if you don't hit in the fairway, you're like trying to run it up on the green because the greens are firm and fast. It's a really good test and it's a grind. You can see the scores are not very -- there's a couple of birdies out there, but yesterday like I hit a good shot and made double bogey on a par-3 that you can almost throw the ball on the green. It's kind of a grind out there. You've got to have a good short game out here.

Q. If you could just tell us how and when you found out that you were getting an invite.

DAWIE VAN DER WALT: I found out like about the week before. My coach, Brian White, works for Jim Crane, for the Astros. And I know Jim, too. It was nice of them to give me an invite. I played for Brian White, played for him in college and he still teaches me, so it was nice of him to kind of help me out.