

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
November 7, 2020



SAM BURNS (-9)

Q. A couple early body blows with bogeys at 2 and 3 and hang in there to retain your lead.

SAM BURNS: Yeah, I think this golf course, you know, it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when, when this golf course will hit you. I think for me, just being able to hang in there. I knew, I felt like I was prepared for that if it were to happen and it did early, so we kind of just stuck with it and tried to keep giving what the golf course gave us and we were able to put a good round together.

Q. I saw you have so many good shots, but tell me about the eagle at 8.

SAM BURNS: Yeah, I kind of necked the tee shot, but fortunately it stayed in the first cut there. Kind of one of those lies where it was either going to come out spinny or a little hot and it came out spinny. I had an okay lie over there, pretty clean and I was actually trying to land that shot just short of the green and it came out with a little spin, front edge, and you know what it did from there, but that was a nice little bonus.

Q. And you celebrated with an energy bar. Tell me about your thoughts trying to win for the very first time going into the final round.

SAM BURNS: Yeah, I don't know what to tomorrow has in store for me, but I think we're just going to go out there and stick with the game plan that we've had all week. If it happens, great. If it doesn't, great, and go from there.

Q. First of all, not to go to something negative, but can you talk about your ankle injury? How long did that derail you and when did you start fully swinging again?

SAM BURNS: Yeah. So it was last July, maybe the third week of July, just gotten home for a couple weeks off and injured it. Then I wasn't able to play the Playoffs, which was unfortunate, it would have been my first. Then I wanted to start back -- I did start back at, where was that, Greenbrier. I had an ankle brace on. I remember getting out there on Wednesday, I hadn't walked holes yet, I had only ridden in a golf cart and I thought it was a nine hole pro-am. So I get on the tee, I see the sheet that he gives me. I ask, "Well, who's going to take over for me after nine?" He goes, "Oh, no, it's an 18-holer." I look at my coach, my coach was there, I was like, "I don't know if I'm going to make it."

So I ended up playing, ankle was still bothering me. Had a couple weeks off, thought I could try again, still kind of nagging. So I thought it was frustrating that it took longer than what I wanted it to. Was finally able to start back in January and finally over it now, so I'm glad it is

over with.

Q. Going back in history again, do you recall the 2018 Honda playing with Tiger? Was there anything from that experience that you could maybe use going into tomorrow?

SAM BURNS: I think I forgot about that one. I'm just kidding.

Yeah, obviously really cool experience for me. As a kid you always dream of playing with Tiger Woods, much less in a final round of a PGA TOUR event in contention.

Yeah, I think that day was a little surreal. Just, I thought I was capable of keeping my emotions in check and where I wanted them. That day really challenged me. So I think it was good for me to see that I was capable of being able to do that in a pressure-packed situation like that.

Yeah, I mean, tomorrow's a similar situation. Fortunately I've been in this situation a couple times now, recently in Napa, so I feel like I learned a lot just how important patience is, you don't have to play perfect to win. Yeah, hopefully just build off that and see what happens.

Q. And lastly, you're not far from -- far from where we are now. Fans on site, do you have a lot of family and friends who are out here this week?

SAM BURNS: Yeah, my wife and I both went to LSU so a lot of LSU grads, alumnae move to Houston. We actually went to dinner last night with some couples that we knew from back home and going to LSU, so good to see them, good to see some familiar faces.

Yeah, it's been fun. Jason and I were talking about today how awesome it is having crowds again. It's really good for the game of golf, it's really good for the PGA TOUR and I think hopefully the fans are enjoying it as well.

Q. In addition to your wife, are there other family members of yours out here this week?

SAM BURNS: Yeah, my parents are here somewhere over there. I think my sister may be coming down tomorrow. Yeah, whole family's here this week besides my brother and his wife. Just became an uncle for the second time, so they've got little ones at home.