



TROY MERRITT (-7)

Q. Troy, how about that back nine? I mean, six birdies. That is some incredible golf to come in, and then a great two-putt on 18 to secure birdie.

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, it was a pretty solid finish after making a little bit of a mess of No. 9, making the turn at 1 under. Just played solid all day. Hit a lot of fairways, lot of greens, had a lot of good looks, a couple two-putt birdies on the back side. That's what you've got to do around this place, you've got to make a lot of birdies and try to avoid the little mistakes that aggravate you and we were able to do that today for the most part.

Q. Give us your impressions of this golf course, especially when you shoot the number that you did today, why it's so much fun to play.

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, I've seen this golf course now for about 20 years. Came to watch the seniors play when I was in high school and got to play it once or twice. It's just a lot of fun. It's great for the players, it's great for the fans, you can make a lot of birdies, the scoring's usually really low. So if you like shootouts, this is the golf course for you and you're going to get another one this week.

Q. A lot of support out there for you, too?

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, family, friends. Obviously it's been a little different in the COVID era, but obviously a lot more than last year.

Q. Troy, what did you like about your game out there today?

TROY MERRITT: I like the fact we closed at 64, but to get there, found a lot of fairways. That hasn't been too much of an issue the last little while, it's just been knocking putts down. The last two weeks really haven't made a whole lot and up until then, was putting quite nicely. So to be able to go out and see some go in, it's nice to do out here because you know you have to make birdies out here. It's very frustrating if you go through hit 15, 16, 17 greens and only make two or three birdies, that's just not going to get it done. To go out and make eight birdies today was just a good start to the week.

Q. So you kind of feel like you had the same type of game out there today that you had in Detroit for all four rounds?

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, I feel like the ball-striking was real solid; 11 fairways, 16 greens, something like that. One of the missed fairways was a first cut. So we did a nice job in Detroit hitting fairways and getting it in there and making the putts and that's exactly what

happened today as well.

Q. I know you guys travel a lot, but this has been quite the whirlwind back and forth for you. Just thoughts on being back here after your experiences over in England?

TROY MERRITT: Yeah, it's been, what is it, about six weeks in a row now since the U.S. Open? Yeah, I'm ready for a break, but it's some of my favorite tournaments of the year, it's hard to take one off. Coming here, obviously went to high school here, have a lot of family here still, and without having any spectators out here last year, you just want to come back and play and play well in front of the fans here. So it was a good start to the day.

I feel fine coming back from the British. It would have been nice to make the cut. Like I said, the putter was just cold. Hit the ball just fine, but if you're not going to make putts, you're not going to make cuts and that was what happened last week and it was nice to get a little redemption today here with the putter.

Q. Does this upper Midwest course suit you a little bit better?

TROY MERRITT: You know, as most of the players would tell you, they think a lot of courses suit their eye, but I like bent greens, I always have. I'm not a fan of Bermuda, and obviously we don't have it up here. Spent plenty of years up here playing on these style of golf courses and hopefully we can use that to our advantage this weekend.

Q. That was your first British Open, right?

TROY MERRITT: First one, yeah.

Q. Experiences over there? Again, I know you didn't make the cut, but what was that like playing for the first time over there?

TROY MERRITT: I thought the golf course was phenomenal. I really, really enjoyed it. The only downside was being stuck in the hotel and not being able to do anything. You can't really get the full experience, but from a golfing standpoint it was everything I hoped for.

Q. How many people would you guess you had out there following you, family, friends?

TROY MERRITT: Not too many today, I'm sure they were all working, but at the high point it was probably in the 12, 15, maybe 20 range that I knew.

Q. How many more will you get if you shoot a couple more 64s?

TROY MERRITT: I'm sure some more will be coming out of the woodwork, especially the general public. As you guys know, Minnesotans love their golf, it's a hot spot up here. If we can keep it going and get a decent crowd out this week, I think that'd be awesome for the

tournament.

Q. Much of an adjustment flying all night and coming back and playing three days later?

TROY MERRITT: You know, I think I time it pretty perfectly. I slept for about five, five and a half hours on the flight. Then got in to the hotel about 3:00 in the morning and shut it down for another three and a half, four hours and felt pretty normal. I was tired on Monday night a little bit, but I don't sleep very well at night anymore anyway. I haven't felt any jetlag since then and posted a good number today and I think that shows.

Q. Were you on the charter?

TROY MERRITT: Yes.

Q. Did you just have to sit and wait for that then?

TROY MERRITT: I went out to the golf course. We weren't allowed to go out really and watch the golf, so we took advantage of that. And we just watched the golf back at the hotel, kind of killed the time and then just waited for the shuttle ride back over to the airport, it's about a two-hour drive. Had a lot of traffic, we sat at the jet center for, I don't know, probably a good seven hours almost waiting for the other shuttles and waiting for Louis and Dylan to get there later. It was a late start, but we made it just fine.