

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER 11, 2021**



MARC LEISHMAN (-5)

Q. Marc, in with a 5 under, just a few comments, highlights about the round.

MARC LEISHMAN: Got off to a good start. That first hole's a brute of a hole and to make a long putt for birdie there was a nice way to start the day.

Just, yeah, hit my irons -- my irons were really on and gave myself a lot of chances and made the putts. It was pretty stress free. Disappointing to bogey the last and not have a bogey-free round, but on a course like this I'm pretty happy with just making one bogey.

Q. I know you've dealt with rain many times in your past, but how well did the water subside out on the course?

MARC LEISHMAN: I mean, it was unbelievable. I don't know what they did underneath this place, but on the playing areas, in the fairways and the greens and the tees, it was dry. You could tell that it had rained obviously, but yeah, whoever designed the drainage here, they did a great job.

Q. Marc, there's never much of an offseason between seasons, but did you try to work on anything based on the way last season went coming into the new year?

MARC LEISHMAN: So probably for about six months I feel like I've been playing okay, just not getting anything out of it. Worked on my wedge game, so everything inside 150. And I started making putts, really that's the difference.

It can be a crazy game, it can get you down and you can play really well and not have a good score and play mediocre golf and have a really good score. You have to try and not let that get to you and just to -- I think a fresh season, a new start was pretty good for me. Got me to knuckle down and just really focus and been playing some good golf.

Q. I think you made it to East Lake in four consecutive years before this year. How does that hit for a player of your caliber?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, it was obviously pretty disappointing not to get there, but I guess the time off, the extra week off might have helped me, might make this next season we're in now a really good one. I hope that's the case, yeah.

Q. I know you can't win a golf tournament on Thursday, but maybe you can lose it on Thursday. How do you look where you're at right now in terms of how you played this course going into Round 2?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, I mean, I'll do the same things. There's not a whole lot of strategy off the tee here, it's pretty much driver on every hole, but that flips going into the greens. There's a lot of strategy of where you want to hit it, there's places you can just not hit it, and the greens are perfect so you can make putts. Yeah, I just want to keep doing what I've been doing. Only one bogey today, I think that will -- if I could only have one bogey in each round, I'll be pretty happy with that.

Q. I know you said you hadn't gotten a whole lot out of things, but you won five times since 2017. How do you look at where you are career-wise to date?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, happy. Six-time Tour winner, happy, but there's still some missing parts in there. I'd love to win a major and hopefully I can just keep playing the way I'm playing and have the luck of the draw, rub of the green on those big weeks because you can set yourself for the majors but doesn't mean you're going to play well in them. I would like to do that. Yeah, I feel like I've had a good career. I'm hoping I've still got plenty of years left in me.

Q. How do you see the 15th hole playing out the next three days with the fan interaction? And more people will be coming up the next three days, how do you think that 15th hole's going to be like?

MARC LEISHMAN: It's good. I think I hit a pitching wedge in there today to a back pin, so it's not the hardest hole in the world if you hit a good shot, but obviously it punishes bad shots. I think what this whole golf course does is rewards good shots and punishes bad shots. Yeah, it's a fun hole and hopefully I'll birdie it the last three rounds as well.

Q. So you're glad to see the fans, a place where the fans can get a little bit more enthusiastic about a certain hole?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, it's great having the fans out here. We had a lot of last year where there wasn't fans and I definitely missed having that atmosphere. I enjoy playing under those conditions, so I hope the crowds are big and loud and we can make some birdies for them.