



MATTHEW WOLFF (-6)

Q. Can you just talk about the course conditions today? It was a little bit tougher on a lot of people out there. What was different today about the greens or anything like that?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, the course is playing really tough. The wind was definitely swirling, at least I thought. I was having a hard time figuring out the wind and that definitely cost me a few shots on 17 and on 7. So I think that was difficult, but I think it's just firming up a little bit. It's making the fairways more important to hit because beginning of the week it was pretty soft because we had so much rain, so being in the rough wasn't as penalizing, whereas being in the fairways now is just really important with how fast and firm these greens have gotten. Course is playing hard. It's a really long golf course, which suits into my game really well, but at the end of the day you've got to still execute the shots, and I feel good about my game and whatever that holds tomorrow.

Q. Why is it that no one seems to really pull away here, do you think?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I'm not really sure. I feel like I had a couple mud balls today, so I feel like that's not anyone's fault, it's just unfortunate that we got a lot of rain at the beginning of the week. I feel like that definitely affects -- I feel like everyone just kind of had one or two at least today. That's definitely affected it a little bit.

Yeah, I don't know. I've definitely left quite a few shots out there. I'm really happy where I'm at and going into tomorrow, but at the end of the day I feel like I should definitely be a lot lower than I am. I made a couple stupid mistakes, bogeys on a par-5 and then just not erring on the correct side on 17. There's a lot of things that I need to clean up on, but at the end of the day I'm in a good position going into tomorrow. As frustrated as I want to be at myself, I have to let it all go and just stay focused.

Q. Was 17 one of the mud balls?

MATTHEW WOLFF: No, 17 was not a mud ball, I just misjudged the wind. I still to this point, yeah, to this moment I really don't know what happened on that hole. I took the longer club and felt like I -- felt like I hit it good. It was right at the flag and it was a little downwind. I just, I really don't know what happened. It might have just been not as good of a lie as I thought or I didn't clip it as good as I thought, but yeah, I'm not really sure, I don't really have an answer.

Q. And what did you hit into 16?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Sixteen was 6-iron, 231 to the hole, 206 to the front and it was kind of a jumper lie, so figured I'd be able to get it there.

Q. You've contended on a variety of golf courses on this stretch. Where do you think your game compares to like 2019, that stretch?

MATTHEW WOLFF: It's a heck of a lot better.

Q. Or like what's the progression, what's the difference?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I think in the past I really wasn't hitting it good. The last six months I've been hitting it bad, missing a lot of fairways, missing a lot of greens. I didn't want to go through that stretch, but I think my short game is unbelievable right now. I've really been able to get it up and down, and every time I have gotten in trouble, not every time but the majority of times, I've been able to get it up and down and give myself a good look.

So I feel like that's one thing that's really progressed in my game, but my ball-striking's always there. It wasn't for a while, but fixed my set-up, fixed my swing and I don't feel like I have a weakness in my game right now. I feel really good going into tomorrow. Doesn't mean I'm going to win, but I know I feel good and I'm going to go out and give it my best and have fun.

Q. Did you look at the leaderboard much today or do you kind of do that more on Sunday?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I mean, I always kind of glance at it, but I mean, I don't like to stare at it. It just, it is what it is. You're always going to try to shoot the lowest score you can and at the end of the day, doesn't matter who's up there, who's chasing you, if you finish the tournament in the least amount of strokes, you win. I like to know where I'm at maybe more around the cut than the lead, but yeah, I'm not someone who just stares at it and tries to look at my name.

Q. I know this course does play tougher than people might think originally, but you're not surprised that the leaderboard kind of shifted around a little bit today?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I mean, I am a little surprised. I feel like there was definitely quite a few people up there and it was playing hard today, but I feel like I definitely left a lot of strokes out there. You know, made a couple mistakes and happened at the wrong times, but, you know, I can't do anything about it. I feel like the people that were in the lead are people who are -- everyone's a really good player out here, but they haven't been in that position in a while. Not that I wish for them to fall back, it's just what happens when you have the pressure. It happened to me last week at Mayakoba. It's hard to hold a lead.

At the end of the day I thought I would be holding the lead, especially with a sand wedge in on 17, but I'm happy with the position that I'm in and I think I'm only one back, so I'm

definitely in striking distance. If I go put a low one up tomorrow, which there hasn't been many, I know I'll probably get the job done. I feel like the ball's in my hands and I've just got to execute.

Q. Going back to 17, can you tell us what you were thinking on the tee?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I mean, I saw Marc hit a really good drive. I just didn't really see the point in going for it, to be honest. Marc hit after me, but with where that pin was and that back slope, if you were anywhere past pin high, it was going to be a really hard chip. As you saw Marc, he felt like he hit a pretty good chip and it went 20, 25 feet behind the hole.

On top of that, you bring in the water if you're trying to stay short of it, so I just didn't really see a point of going for it, and on top of that, I hit pitching wedge off the tee, which I almost felt a little -- I almost feel like I wouldn't let myself hit pitching wedge on a par-4, and I knew it was the right club, and I hit sand wedge in. I knew I was going to be able to hit the fairway with a wedge and I would have another wedge in. Not many times I thought I would be making double with two wedges, but it is what it is and I have to live with whatever happened, but I just didn't really see a point in going for it.

Q. Did you hit a different club on the fourth shot?

MATTHEW WOLFF: No, I hit the same club. I knew it was the right club. That's why I'm just so dumbfounded really about how that came up that short. I really didn't -- maybe -- I definitely hit the second one a little harder because it came up short, but it was 125 to carry the front or onto the green and 131 to the hole and it was downwind. All week I've been hitting my sand wedge -- I hit my sand wedge 130, 135 just normal, just cruising it. Gap wedge on the last hole I had 132 and it was a little into the wind and I hit gap wedge and I flew it 140. I definitely knew it wasn't a gap wedge and it wasn't a lob wedge. As you can see, the second shot was good and Ed knew it was the right club. I just can't really give you an answer on how that came up that short.