

WOODY AUSTIN (-5)

Q. Woody, can you just start with your thoughts on the round today?

WOODY AUSTIN: Obviously this early in the year, pretty good. I usually get off to a pretty slow start because I take the whole winter off. It's a nice little start to a round. Still made some really stupid mistakes which cost me a really good round, but it was really hit a lot of shots. I hit it inside five feet, I don't know, four or five times, so I hit some really good shots. Just again, it's the beginning of the year, but very happy because, like I said, I think last year I finished about 60th. You know, that's a good start compared to last year, so very happy.

Q. Does having won here build your confidence?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, but that's just it, I had played good here when we played the Tour here because I remember even my rookie year I think I finished sixth in '95, so I always have good vibes on the golf course. I love shotmaker's golf courses where you've got to move the ball both ways, so yeah, there's a lot of good thoughts there.

But like I said, it's still this early in the year, it's a work in progress to get real comfortable. Some of them were really, really good and some of them were really, really bad. Luckily I hit a lot of good ones, so very happy.

Q. When you take the winter off or -- you live in the Midwest, right?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah.

Q. How do you prepare for --

WOODY AUSTIN: I go one week early. I go to Florida one week before last week and that's it for me. That's my preparation. You know, like I said, it's still enough to feel like you can hit it and it's still enough to get your game somewhat in shape, it's just not consistent, which is really the best part of my game is how consistent I play. So that's the part that struggles at the beginning of the year is my consistency. Like last week I couldn't have played any better the second day, I could have shot 63 or so the second day and then the last day I hit four or five really bad shots and I shoot 3 over. Like I said, that earlier inconsistency. And then today I started out, I hit it four feet on the first hole, I hit it a foot and a half on the third hole, I make a stupid mistake on 10 and stuff like that. It's close, which is nice. It's a lot closer than it was this time last year, so it's even better.

Q. Jim Furyk said yesterday out here there it's sort of like a three-day shootout. Is that kind of the mentality that you have?

WOODY AUSTIN: You have to have that, absolutely. That's the thing. Unless we play a really hard course which every once -- like we play THE PLAYERS Championship [sic] at Firestone all the time, every tournament's a shootout. I think when I won here I shot like 17 or 18 in three days. You've got to go low. You've got to take advantage of all the good ones, which I did take advantage of the good ones today, I just hit some bad ones, which can kind of creep up every once in a while.

Q. Which was your pro-am day, was it Wednesday or yesterday?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yesterday afternoon.

Q. How were the conditions?

WOODY AUSTIN: Got real cold at the end, but they were perfect.

Q. So you missed the crazy Wednesday?

WOODY AUSTIN: I missed the crazy Wednesday. Well, that's the nice thing if you play well enough the year before. I always choose Thursday. I always want to play on Thursday because I always want to play the day before the tournament, see how the course is playing at its best, so every chance I get I pick Thursday. I hope I hardly ever if never play on Wednesday.