

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
March 24, 2022

HAYDEN BUCKLEY (-4)



Q. Always nice to have a bogey-free round. Tell me about the opening round, 4 under.

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: Yeah. I mean, the winds are very interesting. I think there's a lot of holes where it really helps you on, a lot of holes where you kind of just have to suck it up and make a par. I think early we missed a few greens early, but hit it great, almost like hit it through the wind. A couple back fringes on back pins that were very close to being bad. I think I made nine pars in a row to start the day and I think usually that frustrates me, but out here I know how important it is to just kind of stick with it.

And I think getting through 16 through 18, I think I hit one green and got through there even. So just kind of finally found a better scrambling day than I've had in the last few weeks, but stayed patient and shot 4 under on the back. End up holing out out of the bunker or chipping in out of the bunker on the last for birdie. It's hard to stay patient out here, but knowing how good just a few birdies are, knowing that is very important.

Q. You mentioned the last hole. Any birdies stick out in particular, or was it a par?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: No, no. I mean, I think we birdied No. 1, made the turn, nine pars in a row. Made the birdie on 1, which was a huge kind of kickstart just to get us off that par streak. But had a slow couple holes through my back nine, the front nine, but made a huge birdie -- any birdies into the wind out here kind of feel like a steal, but I think that was on 6 I hit a great shot to like three feet dead into the wind.

We talk about it, just having putts. I feel like we made a putter change two weeks ago and Tampa last week I didn't make anything, but I feel like I've gotten to a new point with the putter where I feel more confidence than I've ever felt. So we just talked about having putts. Out here it's a little slow, a little bumpy, but everybody has to deal with it. We just try to have as many putts as we can, and bogey free really helps.

Q. What's the new putter?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: I got the Tri-Hot. It's a putter that I was looking -- I've had it for like a month and I've just didn't want to put it in. I don't like making changes, but I've made a lot in the last month.

But I finally found something that fits me and I just, I feel different when I'm putting now. I didn't make a lot of putts today. I think I two-putted No. 7, holed out of the bunker there on 9 and so I think I made two putts, two or three putts outside of maybe four, five feet. So I really didn't make a ton, but I felt like every putt I've looked at was a lot better than what I've seen.

Q. Tournament debut, but what's your experience playing in conditions like this with the wind?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: I went to school at Missouri in the Midwest, I'm used to the wind. I live in south Florida, it blows every day. The wind doesn't bother me too much, but still there are shots that we hit that still confuse us.

I think something we talk about all the time, it's a lot of luck. You guess how far you need to hit it, you guess how much wind you think there is and you hope to hit solid shots that don't get eaten up by the wind.

I enjoy that part of golf. I think we haven't enjoyed the super calm days that much. I think we like to play in wind, so I think going into it with that attitude really helped.