

AARON RAI (-6)

Q. Coming off a great week last week, just continuing the good form. What was special about that round today, 6 under out there?

AARON RAI: Yeah, it was very consistent today. We started off early in the morning, we didn't really have any wind. This place can get quite windy, so that was a bonus this morning. Very solid the first few holes. Made a great eagle on 15 and a couple more birdies after that. Just again, create chances, very solid off the tee, good iron play. Again, (inaudible) back nine, which was the front nine. I can't really pinpoint anything in particular that was really good, but still felt pretty solid today, which was nice.

Q. Would you say that you're starting to feel more and more comfortable with life in America, coming over here in your first season and kind of educating yourself on these golf courses, different places? Is that becoming more familiar?

AARON RAI: I think time out here definitely helps. Being able to see a few different styles of course. I think more importantly, playing on a few different styles of grasses and I've been practicing a lot at TPC Sawgrass in Jacksonville, which obviously is a great course. Nothing else needs to be said about that place. So I think all in all everything kind of feeds into itself. Yeah, starting to feel a little more comfortable and playing well, too, I feel comfortable with the game, so yeah, it's been good over the last couple weeks.

Q. What was that like kind of switching gears to a team format? You're in kind of a sport where everything is mostly so individual and kind of having that curveball last week?

AARON RAI: Yeah, it was different, it was different. I've never played foursomes before. Luckily, had a great partner in David Lipsky. We both played very well, but also our games really complemented each other. There are certain strengths David has and there are certain strengths I have as well.

It was a nice change of pace. It was a good format. Yeah, it would be nice, I guess, to do things like that more often. Really enjoyed it overall.

Q. And you said you spent more time in Jacksonville recently?

AARON RAI: Yeah. So after the fall part of the season last year, spent around three weeks there and I've been there in January, February and during this most recent break before the Zurich as well. Been spending a lot of time there during off weeks, which has been really beneficial. Yeah, it's kind of feeling like a home away from home, which is nice.

Q. And home base is still in England?

AARON RAI: It is, but I'm not spending a huge amount of time there. I went there over Christmas and I had a couple weeks there in March as well. It is kind of once in a while every few months. Yeah, it's kind of split between Jacksonville and the U.K. at the moment in my time away from tournaments.

Q. In Jacksonville it's kind of just -- are you renting a place or sharing, renting a room from a friend or what's that like?

AARON RAI: Just Airbnbs and hotels at the moment. I was considering renting, but it is tricky with how much I'm on the road and actually away from Jacksonville that it just felt better for the time being to get a feel for what it's like, to feel comfortable and maybe make that decision down the line if need be.

Q. And your first season on the PGA Tour, how would you say it's gone compared to kind of expectations and what you thought it might be like, kind of the off the course stuff and as well as your game?

AARON RAI: That's a great question. I think going into the season I tried not to have too many expectations. I knew it was going to be a steep learning curve just with the first year on any tour is always difficult. There's a lot of new things that are kind of thrown at you.

In terms of the travel side and adapting to things off the course, it is tricky spending so much time away from home, but again, the more time being out here, the more time that I'm spending by myself and with my caddie, for instance. It's becoming the new normal I guess for me. I'm definitely getting more comfortable. Again, with the golf courses, too, I'm beginning to become a little more familiar and my game is in a good place as well. Yeah, things have coming together nicely.

Q. Did you play at Mayakoba earlier in the season?

AARON RAI: Yes, we did.

Q. Was that your first trip to Mexico?

AARON RAI: Second trip to Mexico. Played in the WGC in 2019, that was the first --

Q. You've experienced all three events now?

AARON RAI: Yes.

Q. Is there a comparison with them? Obviously all the courses are different and this is your -- have you had much experience on Paspalum grass?

AARON RAI: That's a great question. The three courses are quite different. Chapultepec was very tricky, very kind of tree lined, shapey, a lot of attitude as well so distance control was very tricky, but I loved every minute of playing that course. It's one of my favorites.

Mayakoba's great. It's a regular event on the PGA Tour season, I really enjoyed that week.

And again this week, I didn't really know what to expect coming into it, but absolutely love the course. It's in amazing shape. The greens are some of the best greens we see all year in terms of condition and (inaudible) fairways as well, so this is very good. Three very different styles, but equally as enjoyable really.