



SCOTT PIERCY (-6)

Q. Scott, great day out there, 6-under 65. Sounds like the putting was the thing that worked well for you. Just describe that round a little bit, maybe a highlight or two.

SCOTT PIERCY: Yeah, I hit a wedge close on 1 like six feet for birdie there. Then I made like a 33-footer on, was it 3? Where did I make it? Then I hit another wedge close on, was it 6? So, you know, wedges are kind of my strong suit. Where did I make -- then I started 10, 11 long putts. I felt like I struck the ball well all day, I put it -- with the winds being cross and swirly, I felt like I hit good solid shots into conservative parts of the green. You know, I felt like I didn't have very difficult putts even though they were long. And then I stuffed it on 14 with a 9-iron from like 153, hit it like a foot.

If I can ride that putter, which I don't like to talk about a whole lot. I'm normally a ball-striker and the ball-striking hasn't been there either. Hitting 16 greens today and being able to roll in a few putts with the wedges being close it's kind of like a perfect formula for me.

Q. You mentioned that you put a new putter in the bag. Can you just talk about that?

SCOTT PIERCY: Yeah, I went to a Newport 2 from Scotty Cameron, which is a square blade from a round GOLO. It just kind of set right in my hands and just kind of like framed the picture a little bit better for me. I think it got the putter started a little bit better. I think for some reason it comes off hotter on the face, which I have a tendency to leave a lot of putts short. Normally I don't like to change, but I was like, yeah, this feels pretty good, so I just put it in and straightaway the ball's just rolling down my line nice.

Q. We've seen some crazy results on 18 today. I was wondering what your strategy playing it was and what you think of it as a closing hole.

SCOTT PIERCY: It's probably going to play over par today is my guess with that wind. You think of 18 as like a driver 6-iron hole, but with this wind I hit a pretty good drive, ripped a 4-iron and I hit a pretty good gap wedge in there. I felt like I got a little unlucky with the spin, it came down the hill, but especially where that pin is and with the wind, you're having to hit a really good shot to get it close. I honestly think it will play over par today. I think I did that last year, I hit two or three balls in the water at one point. It's a great closing hole, especially if it's downwind, brings excitement, but today it plays hard.

Q. You led first round here too after that 62. Any particular memories you have of that? Do you remember it at all?

SCOTT PIERCY: Not really. I don't remember last week half the time. I know I played well.

This course is pretty good for me because you get a lot of wedges in your hand, or short irons I should say sort of inside of 150. If I drive the ball well, get my short irons in my hand, I feel like I have a pretty good advantage here.

Q. Was the wind blowing today more than you remember out here in past years?

SCOTT PIERCY: Definitely on my back nine. The first nine we got maybe a little bit of a docile wind before it came up. Yeah, I think probably around 9, 10 is when it started to come up for us. I got nine holes of getting my rhythm and kind of getting in the flow and then continued to hit good shots.

Q. You said you don't like to change putters. Anything in particular made you decide to do it, and now?

SCOTT PIERCY: I just felt more solid over it for some reason. I think I stand a little bit farther away from that putter so my balance is a little bit better. Maybe because the blade isn't as long, or the blade's a short blade versus a little bit bigger mallet I can start it a little bit better. Sometimes it's just a gut feeling and you've got to go with it and I had a little bit of both.

Q. Scott, your season has been a bit of a struggle I would say in fairness to what you've done in the past?

SCOTT PIERCY: Oh, really? You noticed.

Q. You're in position outside the Top-125 and FedExCup. How important is this week and the next couple for you?

SCOTT PIERCY: They're really important. If I can take care of this week, then next two aren't as important. I feel pretty comfortable, I've made some swing changes, got a new coach, new caddie, so there's a lot of stuff going on with me that I feel like is all good, just coming together could be really good.

Q. When did you make those changes and has it sort of --

SCOTT PIERCY: Last week.

Q. So really recently?

SCOTT PIERCY: Last week is the first week with a new swing coach, a new caddie and I put in a new putter this week, a new driver. Just kind of a whole lot of stuff going on.

Q. You don't seem very stressed about that, but that could be a stressful environment I would think.

SCOTT PIERCY: I put in the work to make sure the stuff's right. When it's under the gun, it sometimes can be a little different, but the results with the putter today, I couldn't be happier. It actually made me smile and I don't smile much.

Q. When you're in this point of the season, do you feel some of that sense of urgency out on the course a bit more?

SCOTT PIERCY: You know where you're at, you know you've got to -- every shot counts and it's time to buckle down. Not that we don't try to buckle down all the time, but there's extra buckling down, I guess. To start off this way is really nice.

Q. Is that maybe what's helped spark some of those changes when the urgency sets in, like okay, I have a month here to make it happen?

SCOTT PIERCY: The ball-striking numbers over the last couple years have -- through my career I've been in like the high 60s with my ball-striking and I started looking at my stats over the last kind of two years and I was like 135 in ball-striking. I've made all my money generally with ball-striking. That was what spawned the coach stuff.

The caddie, I just -- we were missing cuts by one a lot or having to birdie the last hole, so I felt like there was a little bit lacking there. Sometimes you just, you've got to make a change to get better. And I don't like to change, so for me to have all these changes is a good thing, but it's -- like he says, it's a little bit scary, but I feel comfortable with it.