
Q. Sam, good round, a lot of birdies and bogeys today, but you still came out on top of the leaderboard at the moment. Just thoughts on your round?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, got off to a pretty good start first off. Greens were perfect, soft conditions, was able to put it in the fairway for the most part early on and converted some.

Yeah, got a little tougher in the middle of the round, started raining kind of sideways and I was on kind of the tougher stretch like 10, 11, 12 and it just, it was just kind of tough. Yeah, raining and trying to stay dry, playing a lot longer. Made a couple bogeys, but it wouldn't let up. I had a chip-in, which really saved momentum, and had just a kick-in on 16 or whatever it was, whatever hole it was. Anyways, and then 18 had a nice eagle look. Yeah, it was a pretty solid day overall.

Q. That chip-in, is that how you keep the motivation on a hard day like this?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, it was like that was definitely a point in my round where it felt like things could kind of start to come unraveled. Yeah, I just put myself in a bad position and it's kind of one of those classic "no pictures on the scorecard." Being able to make a 4 there on a hole that is not one of the tougher ones out here kind of saved it, and then carried that through the rest of the round and it was pretty stress free from then on out.

Q. And you had a T-7 here last time, it was your first time playing Accordia. How does it feel to be back at a course that you know you kind of played well at your first try at it?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, it's always nice to be comfortable. I'm pretty comfortable with the lines on tees. It was a pretty easy adjustment. A lot of it's just the time change and everything, so feeling like I already had a head start in knowing the course and having played well here helps a lot not feeling like I needed to be like overly strenuous with my preparation so I could kind of prioritize rest, which was nice. Going to kind of keep doing the same thing and yeah, it's nice to be comfortable and I've seen some good shots here.

Q. And then mentally just going into the next few days, there's a lot of golf yet, but tonight just your mindset going into Friday?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, I actually have a couple friends here that grew up like a few houses down from me and he plays for a professional basketball team here, so I'm going to see a little bit of the culture. We didn't get to do that last year when I was here, so I'm going to not think too much about golf this afternoon and get to bed early. Like you said, there's a ton of

golf left to be played, but it's always nice to get off to a good start, not feel like you have to press. In an event where there's no cut, you just have to stay patient and keep plugging along, so a good solid round to start the week goes a long way.

Q. What's the name of your friend?

SAM RYDER: His name is John Mooney. he plays for the Chiba Jets.

Q. Are you going to go see a game while you're here?

SAM RYDER: They're playing on Saturday and Sunday. The problem is he's playing at 3:00 I think on Saturday and 4:00 I think on Sunday, so hopefully I'm playing late on the weekend. But all the tee times are kind of on the earlier part of the day, so hopefully I can kind of get over there and watch him play.

Yeah, it's pretty crazy, very small world. He played at Notre Dame and was a really good player, played for one year in Australia, now he's playing right here. It's pretty funny that it's coincidental that we're both here at the same time.

