



MACKENZIE HUGHES (-4)

Q. Mackenzie, 4 under, good things going here on Thursday. What are your takeaways when you look at round one here in Houston?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, lots of great golf. Got off to a nice start and I watched some of the golf this morning and I thought the course is playing tough. It was yielding some birdies, but pars are going to be good. I kind of picked away at a few early and was swinging it nice for the most part. A couple loose shots, but overall pretty pleased. Just tomorrow need to clean up the par 5s.

Q. When you watch something early, how much did that impact your game plan coming out this afternoon?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, I think the game plan for this golf course is usually the same, it's try and hit a lot of fairways and greens. You just know shooting 2, 3 under around here is a great round of golf and keeps you in it. I just think that kind of reinforced the patience and the game plan I had early in place and be more of the same the next few days.

Q. You and I spoke yesterday about success in the fall, what you learned in 2016 and maybe how you're going to pivot and do things a little differently with a win under your belt. How much big picture is this a continuation from your new approach of winning in the fall early and trying to follow up on it?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, I think that obviously I have some confidence, but more than anything trying to be more patient, more positive. I made a bit of a mess of the third hole, the par 5. I think the growth in my game is to come back on the next hole, which is pretty tough, and make a birdie, so nice bounce-back there. That kind of stuff doesn't happen with a bad attitude. If I kind of dragged that previous hole to the fourth hole, I might finish that round on a different note. So that stuff is really good to see and the stuff I'm working on.

Q. You and I talked in Mississippi about your goal to add length off the tee, which you've done. How much does that help on a golf course like this when that added length really does come into play?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, for sure, it's big. I think today I was playing with Tony, who's pretty long, and kind of keeping up with him, which is a good sign for me and something I'll continue to work on. But for sure on a golf course like this it's a huge advantage to be able to hit it far and the closer you can get to the hole, the better.

Q. Is it kind of fun when you get in a situation where one of your partners is playing



really well? Do you sort of feed off each other when that happens?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: For sure. I think that we made the turn and a bunch of those guys with Joel and Tony started to make some birdies there. I don't know how many Joel made in a row, but it was three or four at least and Tony started to roll three or four in a row. Yeah, I was just trying to keep pace with those guys, but it's always nice seeing balls go in the hole and guys hitting good shots, it's definitely helpful.

