

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 10, 2022



AARON WISE (-5)

Q. Aaron, how would you characterize the round?

AARON WISE: Yeah, interesting. A lot of good shots, some bad ones that were frustrating, but overall it's a great score around a tough golf course. I have time to go clean some stuff up before the round tomorrow and hopefully play a little more solid even though I would take the score again if you would give it to me.

Q. I was going to say you shot 5 under, go bogey free, but you don't seem to be, maybe the word's enthralled?

AARON WISE: Yeah, you know, I've just been in a weird place with my game where I'm obviously playing well enough to shoot good scores, but there's just a couple shots a round that are frustrating me. Maybe it's also just because it's late in the season and I played too much golf and that's just kind of how golf gets.

Overall, even though I let it frustrate me for a second or two, I did a good job of staying patient, kind of letting it go. And I had a couple great saves to shoot bogey free. Sometimes you shoot bogey free and you hit 18 greens and it was just an easy round. Today, it was bogey free on the card, but it didn't feel stress free. Hopefully play a little better tomorrow, but overall great score today and really proud of the way I fought and shot that score.

Q. You shot a nice round to finish up at Mayakoba last week and then obviously coming out here and shooting 5 under your first round, what maybe is working very well for you right now in that you're confident in your game?

AARON WISE: Yeah, just kind of everything. I feel like I'm driving it pretty well, feel like the iron game's pretty sharp. Very different styles of golf course. Last week Mayakoba was a lot of wedges, this week's a lot of longer irons, but overall through the bag I just feel like if I'm out of position, I can chip well, I can make a five-footer if I need to, sometimes I roll in a long putt. It's just one of those things where it's just staying patient and things seem to kind of just be dropping and the score seems to be pretty good, so in a good little rhythm right now.

Q. If you looked back to let's just say a year ago, 12 months, how much more confidence do you have in your game now than you did maybe late last year?

AARON WISE: A lot. I feel like even on my bad days, and I wouldn't say today's a bad day, but even on the bad days I feel like I can still get around there and shoot a score that's respectable. That's what it's all about out here. Everyone's good day is going to be really good, right. It's about when turning a 2 or 3 over par into an even or 1 under par, that's



where you really keep yourself in these tournaments and give yourself chance after chance to win. The last two years really I feel I've been building to that and it just kind of feels like a snowball effect a little bit with the confidence where you keep doing it, keep doing it and then you start to believe you can do it and it's kind of just a big snowball of confidence coming your way.

Q. Do you feel like, because you're now (unintelligible) the top 40, getting close to the top 30 in the world, do you feel you're on that elite level now in like the professional golf game?

AARON WISE: I feel like I'm getting there. I'm pretty hard on myself, there's always things I want to improve, but I feel like I'm well on my way. I feel like I'm in a way better spot than I was a year ago or two years ago. I just want to keep pushing and keep getting better and see how good I can get.

Q. You got it going on your back nine. What happened on there? You had four straight birdies.

AARON WISE: I mean, two of them were par -- no, they weren't. One was a par 5, got it going, good birdie there. The next hole, good wedge shot in there close, made the putt. And then just overall just was patient, just started going my way through that little stretch. There's a couple birdie holes in there on the front side. I feel like the front plays a little bit easier than the back. Even though I was only 1 under on the back side, I knew I was playing well and I knew I had some birdie opportunities. If you looked at the leaderboard early on, everyone who was like 3, 4, 5 under played the front first. So I knew it was out there, just stayed patient and got a little hot in the middle, which was nice.

Q. You said you played really well and you played well last week and everything. Just talk about how difficult it is to win on this tour.

AARON WISE: It's really tough, man. There's 144 people normally and they're all really good. You say 10 of them are going to be playing really well that week and you've got to beat all of them to win. Not only do you have to play really well, but there's some luck involved, there's some getting good breaks when you're going to win a tournament. I feel like it's just one of those things where if you keep putting yourself up there, eventually it's going to be your day. I felt like the last year or so I've done a great job of that. Haven't been able to close one out, but I had a second at Memorial and I've had a few top-5s, so I've been really, really close.

I'm anxious to get that next win. I got one, but it feels like forever ago now. It's one of those things where you've just got to stay patient. Like I can't control if I'm going to go out and win this tournament, right? I can only control how good a shot I'm going to hit, how good a putt I'm going to hit. So I'm just going to focus on that and then at the end of the week just tally them up and see where it ends up.



Q. It would be kind of nice to get another win in Texas, wouldn't it?

AARON WISE: It would be good. I don't want to win them all in one state, but I'll take two in Texas.

Q. Final question from me, you've completed your first round. There's still some golfers having to finish their thing, but based on the first day, is there a target score that you think it might take to win this thing?

AARON WISE: I don't know. I think it's normally been like low double digits, so like 10, 11, 12. But the greens seem a little slower this year than in years past and of course we're going to get a little bit of rain so it might be a little softer, so could go a little past that. But, I mean, I'm just going to take it one day at a time, come out here tomorrow, see if there are storms in the forecast, see what the day brings me and just try and go play my best. That's all I can do.

Q. It definitely will rain. It rains at every golf tournament.

AARON WISE: It sure does.

