ROUND 1 INTERVIEW January 19, 2023



KEVIN SUTHERLAND (-7)

Q. Kevin, 7 under today, you've got to feel good about that start.

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Yeah, I played really good today, hit the ball really nice and I made some putts. It's always nice to start the year that way. Everybody's probably coming here a little bit rusty, so you're just hoping to knock off some of the rust. Not really sure where the game is, but my game feels really good right now, I'm happy about that.

Q. You made four consecutive birdies, 7 through 10. Can you walk us through those?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Yeah, OK, I didn't realize I made -- OK.

Seven, just driver and a hybrid on the middle of the green, two-putt. Then I hit a nice 4-iron on No. 8 to about three feet and made that. Then I made a 25-footer on 9, which is always nice. Then two-putt again from like 20, 25 feet on 10 for a birdie.

That's a stretch of holes, 8 and 9 are tough, but 10 and especially 7 and especially 10 are holes that you can get, so you have to make a little bit of a run there.

Q. Did you feel good about your prep coming into this week?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I haven't played a lot. I got here about a week ago so I got a chance to practice a little bit and I was hitting the ball in the middle of the face and it felt kind of good. Again, you just never know. It's just like you don't have a real good feel for it until you actually play in the tournament and see what's going to happen. It was actually better today than it's been, so it's good.

Q. Did you see a 7 under out there before you started?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I think so. I mean, the weather, there's not much wind. I would guess that there might even be another score better than that today. It's just there's a lot of birdie holes out here and the wind's not really blowing much and the course is in unbelievable condition. The greens are phenomenal so you feel like you can make a lot of putts, and I was able to do that today and I'm sure there's a lot of other players doing about the same.