

THE PANAMA CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW

February 4, 2023



CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH (-4)

Q. Chris, 3 under, right now you're sitting atop the leaderboard. Obviously there's some more players out there. How are you feeling heading into the final round?

CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: Honestly, just feels good to survive. It's such a tough test that anything under par is a pretty great round. So it just feels good to honestly just survive this place another day. It's a good test.

Q. What is it specifically about the course? It seems like each day it's a little bit different. Today seems to be the most challenging.

CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: Greens are getting firmer, it's tough to get it close. It's just a lot harder to make birdies and make easy bogeys out there. It's just getting firmer, it's windier, it's hot. Just everything being so tough, you've just got to hit a lot of quality shots so just make par let alone birdie, so it's good.

Q. This is known each year as kind of one of the more challenging courses. How do you feel, this being your first start of the year for Korn Ferry Tour and automatically getting in front of this challenge?

CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: Yeah, I played about sort of half the year last year, so I haven't played this course before. Yeah, it's definitely a rude awakening to start the year on something this tough, but it was good to kind of see where the game's been the last three days. And obviously there's a bunch of people in the mix and it's so difficult, that, you know, got 18 more holes. Yeah, good spot.

Q. Remember last year we talked, think it was Glenview where you were sitting top 5 heading into the final round. Do you think there's anything from that week that you can relate to or is it kind of its own different thing?

CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: Yeah, obviously, it's good to be in the hunt and have those kind of feelings again and kind of draw upon how I was feeling in the hunt during that week and try to do that again this week.

Q. And then I guess early part of the Korn Ferry Tour season, not guaranteed a ton of starts, how does that affect the mindset or more of a day-to-day, take it each week at a time?



CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: Each week. Honestly, like making the cut you'll make enough points to reshuffle at this point, so I think just making the cut and getting points is kind of a big deal at the beginning just so that you get obviously starts throughout the year.

I'm just worried about this course is so difficult that you just have to focus on -- it's so cliché, but you're just going to have to focus so hard on every shot because if you lose focus for a second, you're just going to make a lot of quick bogeys.

Q. And I think you had eagle on 5; is that right?

CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: Yeah.

Q. Can you take us through that hole?

CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: Yeah. Hit a solid drive. I didn't think the tees would be up, I would not be making eagle if the tees weren't all the way up. They were like a hundred yards up. Hit a great drive up the left center, hit a 7-iron from about 193 and just hit it perfectly, came off the face just right and went on the front edge of the green to about six feet and, you know, rolled it in.

Q. Who do you want the Cardinals to hire, head coach? The hardest question of all?

CHRISTOPHER PETEFISH: I would have said Sean Payton, but that's already gone. I mean, I don't know. They're kind of a mess right now, but hopefully someone that doesn't have a below-500 record in college.

