

LECOM Suncoast Classic

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW

April 20, 2023

PATRICK COVER (-8)



Q. Great round today. Just talk us maybe through some of the high points, highlights of the round.

PATRICK COVER: Yeah, so definitely got off to a good start, birdied 1 and 2, so being 2 under through three was really, because I think 2 and 3 are probably the two hardest holes on the course. I was going to be happy if I was even through three going into it. So I got off to a great start.

This is the kind of course where if you hit your driver decently straight, you're going to get a lot of good iron opportunities out of the fairway and I feel good about that part of my game. I kind of found something last week, I've kind of been struggling with it this season so far, but last week started to hit it really well and kept that going today. I just hit a lot of quality iron shots, had a lot of birdie looks inside of 15 feet.

Q. Sorry to go over something kind of regular to like big picture, but you've played all around the world since you've turned pro so you've kind of progressed through the ranks every year. How would you assess how you've like progressed through pro golf since turning pro out of college?

PATRICK COVER: So I've played on all of the PGA TOUR-sanctioned tours, including China which isn't around anymore. So I've played at every level.

Even since like junior golf it's taken me always a little bit to get comfortable and get going. Every new level that I get to, whether it was junior golf to college, then college to like elite amateur and then just even like being on the mini tours, it's always taken me a little bit of time to get comfortable.

You know, I feel like I've gotten comfortable now and I think maybe last year I felt like I had to play amazing to get myself into contention or to have good rounds out here. Now I just feel like if I kind of go about my business and play my game, then I'll see it add up to a good finish at the end of the week.

Q. What would you say are some of the bigger things that have changed about your game since coming out of college?

PATRICK COVER: I've definitely become a more consistent putter and chipper. Like I would have good putting and chipping rounds in college, but then a lot of those are



three-round tournaments and I would have like two good ones and one bad one. I've been putting and chipping well all season so far.

The ball-striking has been a little bit off, but I seem to have found something in my swing. I think that kind of all parts of the game are starting to come together a little bit. I would say just incrementally improving every part of the game. I don't think one facet of my game like stands out a ton. I would definitely say I putt it well, but I think my ball-striking and short game has kind of caught up to where the putting doesn't stand out as like the outlier.

Q. What would you say led you to UNC Wilmington for school?

PATRICK COVER: So North Carolina was really competitive for junior golf, especially the years that we were coming out. If you go look at PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry, there's so many guys out of North Carolina, so it was tough to get to Chapel Hill or some of the big ACC schools. I kind of started getting better later in high school, I would say I kind of really started peaking maybe even senior year of high school kind of after everyone commits and all that. I didn't have a ton of options. I definitely had a few, but I was pretty sure I was going to go to UNC-W right after I committed. I loved the town, we had some really good golf courses to play, I knew I was going to go there with a couple friends that I played with growing up, so it just seemed like the right thing.

I sometimes question like would things be different if I chose to go to one of the bigger schools. There was really only one that I maybe could have gone to, but yeah, I think everything turned out good. It was a really good experience, a good four years. We had a lot of fun and played a lot of good tournaments for not be a huge program, but they did a good job with the program.

