

STEPHEN AMES (-7)

Q. Stephen, bogey-free round of 65 today. What was the key for you?

STEPHEN AMES: No fives. Only one five, I'm only kidding. Ball-striking, I hit the ball very nicely and obviously gave myself some opportunities. I think I hit every green if I'm not mistaken. Oh, I think I missed one green. When I hit the green it was close, and then this week I made some putts, which was nice.

Q. Stephen, what's the comfort level difference with having your son on the bag?

STEPHEN AMES: In some respects it's me showcasing -- me showcasing me, what his dad's capable of doing in some respects. I think at this stage now for him with his career where he's going, he's realizing the kind of work that he needs to do. So we've had a lot of chit chats going on out there, which is always important to be in a comfortable position, comfortable zone should we say. This is not his first time doing it, so he's done it a few times. We're very much in that realm of being in a very nice comfort zone when we're playing golf and he's caddying.

Q. How do you feel about this course, having won here before?

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, it's a different course. Obviously the Pines we're playing for, I believe, the second time, 2019 was the last time we played it. That side of it's quirkiest than the other side obviously as we both know, as we all know. I guess it's more placement there on that side than it is on the other side that we normally play.

I think overall the condition of the golf course is awesome. A little thin in some areas, but overall the condition of the golf course is very nice, and the weather's been holding off, which is even better. So we'll see what happens for the rest of the weekend.

Q. You played well last week.

STEPHEN AMES: I did.

Q. Is this something you could build on?

STEPHEN AMES: Well, west coast, I'm not a west coast fan obviously for those who know my career. Tucson with all the snow that we had, that was fun. And then I think we went from Tucson to Newport Beach where we had five inches of rain and I was like OK, great, love California, which I never have. And I was very sick at Palm Springs unfortunately.



So the three weeks coming into Houston was kind of a breather, kind of nice for me. Actually it was a month for me total. Prior to that I was -- I've been hitting the ball extremely well and just couldn't get the putts going in the hole. Houston was very much that. I was third in greens hit, 20th in fairways hit and 72nd in putting, so I'm going OK, I finished ninth, you know. That was the key and today was the difference, I made some putts.

Q. Did you do anything different?

STEPHEN AMES: No, not really, absolutely nothing different. Houston's greens are a little tough to read unfortunately, a lot of players said that. A little bit grainier than these, so it was tougher for everybody to make putts except for Alker.

Q. You don't take the putter out and drag it around the barn and teach it a lesson?

STEPHEN AMES: No. If anything, I'll put it in a fireplace and get it nice and warmed up. Other than that, that's it.

Q. You didn't change anything?

STEPHEN AMES: No, I didn't change. It's never the arrows, it's always the Indian. Is that politically incorrect? (Laughs.)

Q. Did you enjoy -- when you came back after winning here, it looked like you really enjoyed it. You got to throw the first pitch out at a ballgame. Was that just a fun experience?

STEPHEN AMES: It's always a fun experience, yeah. When you're winning out here, they look after you, which is nice. Obviously different events, each event tends to be a little different than the other and how they're going to treat that past champion coming back. I think overall that the Tour has done and most of the events have done a really good job in treating the past champions when they come back the year after.

Q. And you were in the first group off today, how did you like that?

STEPHEN AMES: I wish it was the same tomorrow, but I know it's not going to be. Actually the funny thing is we were 2:10 the first nine and 2:45 the second, and I was like oh, I didn't feel the difference, but yeah, it's that slow out there unfortunately. Can't help that.

