

STEPHEN AMES (-15)

Q. Stephen, another solid round today, 31 on the back nine. What was the key today?

STEPEHN AMES: I guess putting, putted nicely on the back nine. I think overall the whole game was very solid, hit a lot of good quality shots close to the hole and I made some nice putts coming down to the end as well. Just the same as it was yesterday pretty much.

Q. (Inaudible)

STEPEHN AMES: Incentive? No, I don't have any incentive, no. Like I said, I've been striking the -- like clicked on something at home when I went home for the month off and I've continued with it since here. Obviously confirmed with my coach and looking at things and he's like, no, continue doing it because it's the right path to continue, and I have been doing it. The ball-striking is very good right now.

Q. Can you share?

STEPEHN AMES: I just tend to get a little tilty on the way down with the upper body and I need to keep rotating. My thought was always left shoulder going down the left, which enables me not to draw it as much and helps me hit a fade more than anything else, yeah.

Q. Tell us about 18 a little bit, what you hit there and what you were thinking there.

STEPEHN AMES: Yesterday I actually hit a good drive. It was probably about maybe 20 feet left of where I should have hit it, hit the hill and didn't quite get all the way down, but it's just amazing if you get all the way down there.

And today I hit it on the proper line, which is a little further right. I actually stood up there and I'm like, wait, 141 front? It was unusual because, yeah, you never hit 9-irons into a par-5. and I hit a great second shot there to get it. I was a little in between yardages and I had to stand on the 9-iron to get it because it was actually 148 yards, but it worked out perfectly. Yeah, that was kind of a gimme a little bit.

Q. What kind of a boost was that going into the final round?

STEPEHN AMES: It's a boost. I think overall the boost was just the way I've been playing, very steady, hitting the ball right where I pretty much want to hit it and keeping myself out of trouble and waiting for the putts to drop. I'm not forcing it, I'm just being very patient overall.

Q. Do you remember fairways being this quick here?



STEPEHN AMES: Quick here? Never been quick here.

Q. Right.

STEPEHN AMES: No, it's always four forty-five, five hours a round easily unfortunately. I think Scott McCarron put it the right way, I think these two nines we're playing is nine miles and the other two nines that we normally play are 10 miles of walking, so that's the difference there. And of course some holes we have trolleys or carts to take us to the next tee, so that helps. Yesterday we didn't have very many, so we did a lot of walking. That's where the pace of play slows up unfortunately.

Q. How did your caddie do today?

STEPEHN AMES: Caddie was awesome, yeah. I think he's more excited than I am at this stage right now. Yeah, he's learning, he's learning a lot. He realizes where he needs to get to, which is important.

Q. Good father-son time?

STEPEHN AMES: Of course it is, it's phenomenal. As they say, it's priceless.

Q. Do you like playing with a lead?

STEPEHN AMES: I think I've only done that when it was here if I'm not mistaken. Yeah, I don't mind it, it is what it is. At the end of the day it's still you that you're battling, you and your thoughts and your feelings and your emotions. That's basically at the end of the day what I have to control and right now I've been doing a very good job of it, and I'm going to continue doing the same thing tomorrow.

Q. Do you change your approach at all?

STEPEHN AMES: No, no. My approach right now has been phenomenal. I pick my spot where I want to hit it, pick my shape, get up and hit it. I've had very little swing thoughts going on right now, which is what's making it very easy for me right now.

Q. When's the last time you were able to do that?

STEPEHN AMES: A while, it has been a while. Usually I fight my eyes and my sight of what I see during the golf swing. This week it's like, and last week, the last two weeks it's been OK, this is becoming a little too easy in some respects, which is nice. My mind is very clear right now, it's very quiet, that's the main thing that I've been really struggling with. I found a nice way to turn it on and off when I'm over the golf ball and it's helping.

Q. Have you played much with Ken?



STEPEHN AMES: A couple practice rounds, yeah. He's a journeyman obviously. It's nice to see that he's up there because I know he struggled since he won the PGA, and end of last year he started playing a lot better. I think the caddie that he has now is a big help for him and it's nice to see that he's playing up there. He's a great guy, him and Angelo are wonderful people.

