

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTE
July 29, 2023

AARON BADDELEY (-13)



Q. Aaron, quite the back nine you put together. Just kind of assess your round today.

AARON BADDELEY: It was a little bit of a slow start. That second hole is a tough hole, then just sort of made a couple of saves. Then got it going a little bit, started hitting some really good shots and making a couple of putts, so it was nice to capitalize on the good shots.

Q. How did you kind of approach this week just knowing where you are in the FedExCup and next week not guaranteed for you to start? What was kind of the mindset entering the week?

AARON BADDELEY: It's a little bit like a four-day qualifier for next week. If I can play well enough to finish top-10, that gets me into next week for sure. Really just trying to play -- I mean, I feel like I've been playing well. I know I've missed a couple of cuts these last few events, but I feel it hasn't reflected on how I've been playing. This week is just coming in, trying to do my thing, just keep playing the way I've been playing and try to make a few of those putts to capitalize.

Q. What would a playoff berth mean to you? It's been a few years since that happened, especially on a consistent basis. Just what would that mean to get in there?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, exactly, that would be huge. Especially playing out of the category that I'm in, the past champions category, to push my way in there and try and get that top-70 would be pretty awesome, just so I can sort of pick my schedule. It would be a little bit easier on the family, a little easier on my wife.

Q. You mentioned to Amanda a new swing coach just within the last couple years. Can you kind of take us through what happened and kind of how that's gone since?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, it was like September like 2021, a guy named Mike Adams, he's up in New Jersey, Florida in the winters. So I went up and saw him and all we really worked on was just grip and my setup. If I can do those two things, then the rest sort of just falls into place.

Mike's made it really simple for me where I feel like I can just get back into playing golf again, not really thinking about my swing much at all.

Q. Did you see a day like this coming so far?



AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, yeah, I felt like I've been sort of really close to putting a week like this together. Like I said before, I missed a few cuts, but it hasn't reflected how I've been playing. Felt like this year's been sort of close and actually feel like the putter hasn't quite cooperated as well as I would have liked.

Sunday of John Deere I sort of put my finger on one little thing in my routine and a couple months ago sort of figured out something on my backstroke. Now I feel like the putting's really starting to come on again, which has been great.

Q. How much do you attribute it to having the gang all year?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, it's the best having the family here. And we've also got really close family friends that live just a little south of the city, it's great to have them here and seeing them as well. It's been a fantastic week.

Q. Is it fairly rare to have them all here with you?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, they probably come to maybe six a year I'd say, a couple during the summer and west coast they'll come out because we can drive. Living in Scottsdale, we can drive out to Palm Springs, San Diego, stuff like that. Nowadays they do about six a year because of school, extra sports and stuff.

Q. How big or little is a five-shot lead out here going into tomorrow perhaps?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, I mean, definitely it's a nice buffer to have, for sure. It's definitely a course, like as you see there's some good scores out there, so to go out, you can go out and shoot 5, 6, 7, 8 under and you can really put some pressure on Lee if he doesn't keep quite making the birdies. It's a great golf course in that regard.

Q. Did I hear your daughter has been writing to tournaments at different points?

AARON BADDELEY: She wrote to the Phoenix Open telling them why -- the tournament director there, Chance, why I should have got an invite and giving all the reasons why I should be playing the tournament, yeah.

Q. Do you remember any of them?

AARON BADDELEY: I think it's just like works hard, is doing his best, he's had a good year, almost won in Bermuda, stuff like that, yeah.

Q. And does this feel like some of the best golf that you've played in a few years? Obviously just where you finished in the standings hasn't quite, you know, probably matched what you were hoping for.



AARON BADDELEY: I feel like starting this season was a bit of a turning point where I feel like the game has really been consistently good week in and week out for the most part. Then it's just getting a few scores on the board. Yeah, stuff I'm working on with Mike has been really great to simplify it where I can go out each week and just sort of play and not think too much.

Q. Which daughter is the letter writer?

AARON BADDELEY: Jolee, the blondie. She's 13, number two.

Q. Can you put into words like how proud you are of this season? You've been grinding for a few years. You started out the season I think Monday qualifying at Fortinet and top-10 at Bermuda and it's just kind of taken -- you played well in Hawaii. Can you comprehend having a year like this and can you sort of say how proud you are of that?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, it's nice to see the hard work we've been putting in the last couple years have been a real grind, so finishing around the 200 number on the FedEx has been pretty frustrating because I felt like that's not where I should be at.

And then just again, the switch to Mike has really made a huge difference just with my confidence level, the simplicity of the game again. And definitely has been, yeah, the hard work you put in, like I try and work as hard as I can and be the best dad as I can. So to play well and have a good season to have a chance to push into the top-70 is pretty special.

Q. What's kind of motivating you to get back to this point with your game, to keep working at it, as you said?

AARON BADDELEY: I mean, I still love the game. It's not a grind for me to go practice still, I still love it. I'll sit -- like for Father's Day I sat and watched the U.S. Open on Sunday. Like I love the game.

And then to have my kids, like they love the game, too. So they play. A lot of times I want to take a day off, and they'll be like, Dad, can we go play some holes, and I'm like, sure, we'll go.

So I think that, too, as well. They're really understanding the game. It would be pretty cool to have a great run this last half of my career with them understanding, you know, because when I won earlier, they didn't really understand. They get it now. That would be two pretty special reasons.

Q. How does it impact you on a week like this having them here on site with you?

AARON BADDELEY: It's great, I love having them out there. You always hear them yelling. You can never -- I know their voices, you know, so it's pretty special when you make a



couple birdies in a row and you hear them yelling out. And they're always with me with warmups and cool-downs. They're always with us. It's great, yeah, I absolutely love it. I wish they could travel more.

Q. You have a lot of kiddos. What's the biggest challenge traveling with that many kids?

AARON BADDELEY: I wouldn't say travelings the hardest. The travel day is busy, but once you get there. Like we had a house these last couple weeks and we sort of set up shop. That's the easy bit.

It's more just the packing. The kids understand travel, they've traveled their whole lives so they understand. It's more just at home balancing trying to work as much as I can and also trying to be at all the sporting events and all that stuff as well. So try to balance those two, that's the hard part of it.

