

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
September 14, 2023

FRED BIONDI (-1)



Q. Do you want to talk through your round, how it went?

FRED BIONDI: I had a blast out there. It's a dream of mine, playing on the PGA TOUR. It came true, so it was great. I enjoyed it.

Yeah, I didn't have my best stuff, but I made it work for the majority of the round. It was a little bit of a fight out there, but I made the best of it. Didn't end on a good note, a bad three-putt on the last, but it happens. Just excited for tomorrow.

Q. So you finished No. 2 in the PGA TOUR U ranking; is that correct?

FRED BIONDI: Yes.

Q. And then you played on the Korn Ferry Tour this summer. Can you just kind of talk about that experience, going straight from college to the professional stage? What that was like?

FRED BIONDI: We're very lucky to have that. Many people didn't in the past. It's a very awesome opportunity that PGA TOUR U gave to college players. It made college golf more important, I think, and it was great.

And I mean, going from the National Championships straight away to the Korn Ferry Tour is pretty awesome. Skipping Q-School and a weird couple months before that, it's -- I don't know, I think the opportunity, it was awesome and I enjoyed every second of it.

Q. And so you were a sponsor exemption into this event. What was your reaction when you first found out you were going to get to play?

FRED BIONDI: I was pumped. My agent gave me a call and confirmed that I was in. I remember watching this tournament on TV, and it was great, it was great getting the call. Just, I don't know, I was very excited, I was very pumped.

Q. So it's your first PGA TOUR nonmajor. What were you feeling on the first tee?

FRED BIONDI: A little bit of nerves, I mean, like always. I wouldn't say I was overly nervous. I kind of played on the Korn Ferry Tour for a couple of events I think kind of gave me a little bit of help in that aspect, but I was still nervous. It's the first tee shot of any tournament, you feel it a little bit. But yeah, just pretty normal, I'd say.

Q. I wanted to ask you about the journey to get to this point. Obviously you've got a pretty unique golf experience journey. What did it mean to -- obviously having played in majors is a huge deal, but having that first PGA TOUR start under your belt, what does it mean having gone through what you've gone through in the past?

FRED BIONDI: I think it builds a foundation for who I am, and I think it's awesome. I mean, five years ago, four years ago I wouldn't -- if you told me I would be playing in a PGA TOUR event, I wouldn't believe it. Now I'm here. So I think all the stuff that I went through and playing the -- got to play the U.S. Open and all that stuff. I mean, the highs and the lows just kind of made me who I am today.

Q. And lastly, I just wanted to ask you about managing expectations. Obviously you're coming out with a class of very talented college players, you've got Ludvig and Adrien. I just wanted to kind of get an idea of how you manage your own expectations and what success looks like for you.

FRED BIONDI: My opinion, I just want to play good golf for myself. Yeah, what they did is awesome and I'm very happy for them. Ricky, my teammate at Florida, winning his first Korn Ferry event. Adrien just making it look easy out there, too. So does Ludvig, playing the Ryder Cup now.

Yeah, my expectations are mine. I think there's not like -- there's a lot of external expectations like yeah, Fred has to do well or whatever. I just want to play good golf. I just want to enjoy this journey and just have a blast out here. Obviously I want to win and I want to play the best I can, but I can't control that, so I'm just going to put as much work as I can and enjoy it.