RYAN MOORE (-13)



Q. Thirteen under, bogey-free heading to the weekend. How are you feeling?

RYAN MOORE: Good. This is -- you know, my caddie and I were joking yesterday that it might have been the worst I've hit a golf ball in the last like three months, but I made putts. When I did get out of position, I made a couple great par-saving putts and knocked in a couple 15-, 20-footers and that's just all the difference. I controlled it well enough to not get myself in too much trouble, but man, I've been hitting it really, really nice the last few weeks and yesterday was actually a little bit of a shock, especially off the tee for me.

So, you know, that honestly, weirdly gave me some confidence that it's funny you do that sometimes and you shoot a good score and you realize, oh, don't have to be perfect to shoot a good round of golf or to shoot 6, 7 under and it's kind of what I've done the last couple days.

I hit it a little nicer today, controlled the golf ball a little bit better yesterday, but again, putting was just solid. Made a couple saves when I needed to and knocked in a few of those 15-, 20-footers again. That's just not what I've been making lately, so yeah, just got me right to a good position going into the week.

Q. Any birdies or par saves stand out in particular?

RYAN MOORE: No. I just had a couple yesterday and then maybe that one on my 17th hole today were just knocking in those nice, eight-, 10-footers for par. When you're pretty out of position and you hit a decent chip to eight feet, those are the ones that kind of keep the momentum going, keep you feeling good. Kind of did that a couple times yesterday where just knocked in a couple eight- to 10-footers for par, they weren't three-footers, and that just kind of makes you feel good, keeps that momentum and makes you keep that round going.

Q. Making your tournament debut, had you been to Bermuda prior to this week?

RYAN MOORE: No, I never have. I honestly didn't really know what to expect. I've seen it on TV a little bit. To be honest, it doesn't really do it justice, this place is pretty spectacular. The golf course is a really good little golf course. I know it's short by our standards, but generally with some wind and with some tough angles, like it's not something you can just go and send drivers around. You've got to be mindful of where you're putting it and give yourself chances that way.

Q. A couple rounds underneath your belt with this course, a little less windy than in recent years, but what's the key to navigating around?

RYAN MOORE: For me, it's just been the wedge game. You do get some wedges around here and that's kind of what's been working for me lately. So just capitalizing on that when I get 120 or less as far as a number with a wedge in my hand, it's just trying to get it in there close and have a good chance for birdie.

Q. Vegas, Mexico, had consistent finishes. Where are you feeling most confident in your game?

RYAN MOORE: Right now it's just, it's a little bit of everything. Like I said, the last several weeks the ball-striking had been better. Last week the ball-striking was phenomenal, the putting was -- there wasn't stats last week, but if I was anything above last place last week I would have been very shocked on the putting stats.

Just to see -- just kind of worked on some routine stuff with my caddie this week, just worked on some setup stuff and just tried to get real simple with it. Honestly, just feeling a little better, feeling a little more confident over it. It's nice to see those putts going in, just have to keep doing that over the weekend.

Q. You've been out here a long time, multiple winner. How do you maintain your desire to be out here? I'm sure you've got a lot going on in your life and probably didn't have the season that you anticipated having, so how do you maintain that? How do you keep going?

RYAN MOORE: I've been asking that question a lot to myself the last couple years when I'm out here and not performing and not playing well and just not feeling like myself and really not wanting to be here a lot of weeks. It's the hard part.

I have a family and young children and it's hard missing out on their soccer games or their ballet stuff. It's fun to be there for it and I love it when I'm home. It makes it that much harder when I do come out, especially when you're struggling.

But physically I've felt a lot better the last six months really. The second half of this year I finally just felt like I'm kind of doing what I should be doing on the golf course and it's just been now trying to put all the pieces together to shoot those scores. That's why yesterday I kind of hit it poorly by my standards but shot a good score. That actually weirdly gave me some confidence like OK, just kind of remember you don't have to be perfect, you don't have to drive it right in the middle of the fairway every single time, like hey, you can be scrappy sometimes and make some up-and-downs. There's a lot of different ways to shoot under par. Days like yesterday just kind of remind me like what I can do and give me some confidence and some better feelings going forward.

But yeah, I mean, I'd say that's been my biggest struggle the last two or three years is the desire. I've been out here for 18, 19 years, whatever it is at this point, and gone traveling a lot. It's a lot.

Q. Would it be easy for you, or how do you maintain that confidence with that attitude through the weekend?

RYAN MOORE: I mean, when you get this far in the season, well, I do it or I don't. It's almost simple. You know, I joke on the golf course sometimes with my caddie, like you just get a shot sometimes and you just have to hit it, there's no bailout, there's no spot you can hit it. Kind of like the, what was it, the 16th hole here, that par-3, it's like, well, it's time to hit a golf shot, you don't have a choice here, right?

That's kind of -- I would say it's similar this time of the year. Well, it's time to do it or you don't, right? Fortunately for me this week I've been doing it better and feel a little bit better. Built some confidence on my last couple weeks, just different parts of my game starting to work better and that's what you want to see. So far they've all been kind of working, so hopefully it stays that way.