

**ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES**  
**November 17, 2023**



**MATT ATKINS (-5)**

---

**Q. I'll start with the finish there, three straight birdies. Can you walk us through the emotions of that finish?**

**MATT ATKINS:** Yeah. So I was kind of paying attention to the board a little bit. I knew kind of going into the round that you had to get to at least 3. The wind kind of died, the rain stopped, it was a nice day. I wasn't shocked when I saw it move to 4.

I just couldn't get anything to go in. I gave myself a lot of looks, think I maybe missed like two greens. Two or three greens clipped it to a foot or two each time, just couldn't capitalize on my birdie chances.

It was getting kind of discouraging, I guess, and I came down with a few holes left and I was in the fairway, like the left side of the fairway on 7, wind was pumping off the left. I was like, well, this is kind of a shot that I need to hit well, because it's easy to lose it out right into the marsh.

I was on the front fringe and gave it a good run and it just trickled on by and I made the come-backer. That was kind of the first putt I made all day. I was like, OK, now I have a chance, because I knew 8 was gettable and 9 was playing straight downwind.

I hit a good wedge into 8, maybe like four or five feet. I was trying not to be nervous because I wanted to play the weekend. My game's been sharp the first couple days. Maybe a couple loose shots like most people in the tougher conditions, but I knew that I was playing well.

So this week was a huge opportunity for me Monday qualifying. I just didn't want to let it slip by, but I tried to just tell myself even if -- even if it's meant for you to just play and enjoy the experience, you have to be satisfied with that.

You know, I kind of thought about that as I was walking up 7, and lo and behold I finish birdie, birdie, birdie. On 9, honestly, I just played safe off the tee, hit my 5-wood and had 9-iron, it was humming downwind and just kind of amped up and airmailed the green like back fringe and it trickled back on the green. I was like, you know what, I'm just going to hit this die speed, like I don't have any stress over a putt, and it went in dead center.

So it was an awesome finish, an awesome way to finish the day. I'm just super thrilled to be playing the weekend and see what kind of opportunities come the next couple days.

**Q. How would you summarize what's on the line for you this week and what you're playing for this week?**



**MATT ATKINS:** Yeah. So I'm a conditional Korn Ferry member. I won an event out there in 2017. I played the 2017-2018 season out here. I am without a doubt a better player than I was the year I was out here, and the last four or five years results-wise haven't been the best. It's just been in that whole time I've had two kids and we've grown our family, and it's awesome. With that comes a little bit higher expenses, traveling playing the Korn Ferry Tour, and playing average or below average golf is losing me money out there.

So I kind of came into the end of this year going into Q-School with an opportunity to get all the way to the final stage and even get out here on the PGA TOUR with the change in Q-School with five cards there. There was like a two-week stretch at home where I was just, it felt like I had lost it and it was right when I was going to Q-School and I played so poor and I was like, man, that is -- it was just rough to go through that.

But I knew, hey, I still have status, still can make something happen, but financially was in a position where paying bills was going to be almost impossible.

So this was -- getting into the event was an opportunity, but making the cut and making a check, we can at least pay our bills next couple months.

You know, I took a big leap of faith trusting in the Lord a couple weeks ago and I told my wife I couldn't have been more confident in the decision I made. We had been praying for just clarity and just direction on what to do, and discernment. This week was an unknown after I qualified, but I think the Lord has shown, Matt, this is where you're supposed to be, stop, stop playing for yourself and for worldly things, just glorify me.

Sorry.

And with our life, where everything's at in a personal matter, it's the first time I would say that, not that I broke down but that I was fully like, OK, God, I can talk the talk, it's time to walk it. Having that faith doesn't mean that I was going to play well this week or that I was going to qualify, it just means that I'm going to follow Him wherever He wants me to go. This qualifying here, making the cut is Him, I think, pointing me in that direction of this is where I want you.

So that's what I'm playing for this week. My goal is to -- if I were to get back out full time on the Korn Ferry or out here, to not slip back into the selfish nature that is within all of us that, because golf's very individual, it's very performance based and, you know, you can't -- there's nothing you can do performance-wise that makes you good enough.

My hope is that moving forward I wouldn't fall back into that, that I would just work for the Lord and that He would be satisfied with what I'm doing glorifying him and not making it about me anymore.

**Q. Matt, are you an emotional guy normally?**



**MATT ATKINS:** I would say I have emotions not to where I would be like this or to kind of flaunt my emotions, but I think my matter-of-fact way of speaking and my nature makes people think I'm not too emotional.

But yeah, it's just been a really overwhelming time and I think it's because, like I said, I was at a point where it's like you can't just talk about it, you have to live it. I think it was just an overwhelming thing in a positive way.

Like none of the emotional moments on Monday or right now are sad or depressing or should be looked at as a, man, this guy's going through a lot. It's like, yeah, that could be true, that could be one way that some people could look at it, but the overwhelming emotions have been of gratitude and seeing that the Lord is good and He will provide even when it seems like there is no way.

You know, wasn't sure if we were going to pay bills even come January. The Lord says, listen, I love you more than anything, I will provide. It's my promise. Don't put yourself in stuff here that you see in front of you.

So the emotions have been overwhelming because of that. I've seen His promise and I shouldn't need to see it to know it, but that's how I'm feeling right now.

**Q. What's something from you this year or in the recent past that you wish you could have changed, you would have done differently?**

**MATT ATKINS:** This year? I think it's just so easy to get caught up in like this is a job for everybody out here. Like I said, it's performance based, it's competitive, it's individual and it's so easy to get caught up in kind of like the rat race of pro golf.

Obviously you should always try to improve your game and all that sort of stuff, but I don't know, I think it's just the mentality the last four, five years of wanting to play well for money, for whatever it is. I'm not a super materialistic person, but it's almost like I was putting security in money. It's like, oh, if we could just play well and have enough sitting there to play the next few years going forward, that's where I'll be secure. So security's not in money.

I think that's the biggest thing I would have changed, just my outlook on that whole situation and not caring about that so much. Like I said, knowing that there will be enough to eat, to drink and to have clothes and stuff like that.

So I think that would be the thing I would change the most, is just being out here and playing and not being so concerned with what each week or what status on the Tour will do for the next however many years. Just be -- still be present, be here in this moment and just enjoy it and whatever happens is always meant to happen. It's what's meant to be.

Even if that means winning numerous times, if that means losing your job, it's for a reason



greater than you can see at the moment, and sometimes you could be blinded to it because you're so focused on what you wanted instead of seeing the opportunity that's going to come from it.

