

THE BAHAMAS GREAT EXUMA CLASSIC

ROUND 1 QUOTES

January 14, 2024



RHEIN GIBSON (-7)

Q. So, bogey-free round today, 65. What was going well for you out there today?

RHEIN GIBSON: It was nice to tee off early. It was a really weird start, I hit the first tee shot of the season and I hit it down the right side of 1, didn't splash. We got out there, couldn't find my ball. So I think it buried inside the hazard so I had to take a drop. Made a great par. And bogey-free round, so great way to start the year.

Q. You had a good stretch there at the start, a couple birdies and a hole-out on there. Talk us through that kind of stretch of holes.

RHEIN GIBSON: I made a good par on 1. Obviously I had to take a penalty. And made a great birdie on 2, that's really just a par hole, that was a bonus. Hit it close on 3 and then had about a 60-meter shot on 4 and I think it went in maybe the second or third bounce. Just a complete flip of the script, you know, losing the ball on the first shot and then I was 4 under after 4 or something like that. Yeah, it was pretty cool.

Q. What club did you hit there?

RHEIN GIBSON: Just lob wedge.

Q. So with kind of the first round of the season, what were you doing kind of preparing for the season? Were you playing a lot of golf heading into this year?

RHEIN GIBSON: So once the Korn Ferry got done I went to Australia and played the big events down there, the Australian Open, the Australian PGA. Came back, good Q-School, obviously final stage, and then went back to Australia for Christmas.

It's funny, I've only played two rounds since Q-School. I was in the emergency room Christmas Eve, I kind of tweaked my back kind of picking my son up. Before coming down here I had got in two rounds so I didn't really know what to expect. I hit some balls at our university's indoor facility the last couple days before I managed to get down here and get some holes in. Yeah, pretty happy. Maybe the forced break was great, good start.

Q. How's the back feeling now?

RHEIN GIBSON: Surprisingly good. I was just happy it wasn't too major, it hasn't flared back up yet, so we'll just keep on trucking.



Q. Is there kind of a stretch out here that you find it a little bit more difficult than others out on the course?

RHEIN GIBSON: I think this course, I mean, it's very visually intimidating off the tee and a lot of that's wind dependent as well. You're going to face difficult shots based on wind direction on any hole during the week. So if the wind's on the left off 12, it's a different shot. If it's kind of off the right, it's a little easier for a righty. So you're always going to face some tough shots out there, all wind dependent.

Q. And you mentioned it was kind of nice teeing off early this morning. How do you think that might change tomorrow teeing off a bit later?

RHEIN GIBSON: Well, I think it's going to be pretty calm all day today. I really haven't looked at the weather tomorrow. First out in the afternoon, so I can't really complain about that either.

Q. You had a pretty good start to the year in the Australian swing. Is there something about it that gets you going?

RHEIN GIBSON: I mean, I've had some good results in the Bahamas but I've also missed some cuts. I feel like my whole career, I've played around the world and I don't mind the travel, I like visiting different countries, different cultures, I'm just kind of used to it. Being Australian, you kind of have to do that. I've always had fun out of the country and yeah, it's just good to be down here again and start the season.

Q. Have you been doing anything while you've been down here?

RHEIN GIBSON: Yeah, I've got a really good setup this week with some guys that have a house down here that are taking care of me. We were out on the boat yesterday, went to a couple of sand bars, had a few beverages. It was nice playing the early pro-am yesterday so we were on the water all afternoon. Really cool to see the island from the water.

