

ROUND 2 QUOTES
January 25, 2024



MATTHIEU PAVON (-10)

Q. Matthieu, good work out there today. What were your initial thoughts on the round?

MATTHIEU PAVON: Yeah, a pretty good round overall, very solid off the tee. Didn't catch many rough the last two days, that was key. And then the putter was on fire, which is funny. I really missed short ones on the seventh hole, I think I missed two time three-footer for birdie, but dropped some big bombs and keep the momentum going.

Q. And this is your tournament debut, you hadn't seen the complex here before. Arriving on a wet day on Monday, you only had the one day to prepare, but still playing very well so far.

Does it almost take a weight off your shoulders just to be able to go onto the golf course and take things as it comes?

MATTHIEU PAVON: To be fair, it was almost the opposite for me because when I walked that golf course on Monday, it was foggy and raining and I just only saw the greens and the rough and I was like that's a proper test of golf. Everything was looking wet and so long. So I was like, oh, it's going to be some very long clubs into greens, it's going to be tough to catch those flags.

In the end, you show up this morning, better weather, the sun is out and I started with very solid shots. As I said, the putter started to become a little bit hotter and I dropped some and it keeps me in really good momentum.

Q. Also, Nicolai Hojgaard another veteran of the DP World Tour, is at the top of the leaderboard as we're talking right now. He hadn't been able to see the golf course earlier, either. What does the hot start that you two are off to on this golf course say just about the level of competition of guys in Europe who we're going to have more of the European guys coming over this year just as the Tour has enabled the top 10 not eligible through FedExCup points to join the Tour this year?

MATTHIEU PAVON: Yeah, that was a big present for us to get the spots to come here and play in America. I feel like the level in Europe gets better every year, some very tough player coming out of Europe. As you said, Nicolai is a super nice player. His brother, too. There are so many great ones I'm thinking about Meronk, about Ryan Fox. I think it gets really better over there and it's nice to come over in America and show America that we can play some golf.



Q. How often do you think about birdieing the last four in Dubai to have a chance to come over here and earn your card? Is that something you still think about now as you're out here and playing well and making the most of it?

MATTHIEU PAVON: Yeah, I still don't know how I did that, to be fair. It's incredible. All I know is I kind of slowed down that day and then I just walking to the last four holes and I see my buddy Romain Langasque, French guy, and by that time he's in the top-5 or top-10 of the tournament and I'm like wow, he's having a proper day. I'm like OK, let's try to do your best to catch Romain today and I started to make one and then another putt dropped on 16, and then just a better shot of the day, probably the year on 17, made it. All of a sudden you show up on 18 and you're like OK, dude, if you make a birdie on the last, you've got a pretty good chance.

I was really scared of that drive on 18. I just like smoked it left and afterwards it was just a very solid hole to finish the tournament.

Q. And now you're in a position where you can potentially qualify next week for Pebble, for the Aon Swing 5. How much does that give you added motivation going into the last two rounds?

MATTHIEU PAVON: Yeah, it's big. To be fair, I'm not really thinking about that five spot, it's all Pebble next week. I'm so happy to be here and to play in America for a year that I don't really think about what can come if I play well and stuff like this. I just try to show up at every tournament and do my best. I'm taking so much pleasure being here that I just, I'm just trying to enjoy every moment.

