

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 15, 2024



BYEONG HUN AN (-4)

Q. Ben, strong finish, nice start to the tournament. Just talk about that round a little bit.

BYEONG HUN AN: Yeah, it was a bit of everything. Struggled a little bit on the front nine with putting. I feel I was hitting it pretty good all 18 holes, but like I said, I struggled with a bit of speed control on the front nine a little bit on the putting, but I kind of turned around nicely on the back, pretty much made a lot of putts on the back. So I was able to finish 4 under, which I'm very happy about.

Q. How do you do that when you're a couple over after nine in the first nine of the tournament and you really have to sort of kick yourself, how do you get that turned around to have the back nine that you did?

BYEONG HUN AN: It's a tough golf course, you can make some birdies out there, but you can make some bogeys easily. I didn't really have my A-game the front nine, I just had to grind on and hopefully I can make some birdies on the back, which happened. It's a lot harder than it looks, I guess. The scores, 6 under or 5 under on the back, but there was a lot of effort, I guess, trying to put myself back in there, trying to keep my head straight, trying to start kind of over on the back nine. That nice birdie-birdie start helped me to shoot under par on the back nine.

Q. It's been a while since you played here, I think it was '17 when you last played the last time. What's sort of come back to you about the golf course since seven years?

BYEONG HUN AN: It's a great golf course. Just the schedule wise, it didn't fit into my schedule, I guess. I scheduled a little different back then, I guess, 2018, '19, I had to play Phoenix and then Pebble, then here and then go straight to Palm Beach. I really like the course in Palm Beach, so I had to pick one over the other, that's why I didn't get to play here for the last seven years now, I guess.

Glad to be back here, I know it's a tough golf course, you have to grind every shot, every hole. I kind of like that, it gives you a few chances even if you make some bogeys out there. It's good to be back and shooting 4 under.

Q. I know you came out to enter 2024 with pretty high expectations after your year last year and getting the top-50, et cetera, but to start the year in Hawaii with a couple of top-5s and a chance to win, did that change your expectations in any way the next few weeks?



BYEONG HUN AN: No, not at all. I didn't have any expectations, I don't expect anything. We don't -- like I said, if you don't deserve to finish top-5, at least I don't feel it that way. Even I had a great offseason, I thought I prepared really well. Now I saw it worked out because I had some good starts, but when I'm playing I definitely don't expect anything. It's golf, right? It's hard to predict anything. I didn't know what was coming at me today. At the end of the day I was 4 under, but at the start of like the front nine I definitely thought I was going to shoot about 6 over. Like I said, it's very hard to turn it around and I did that so I'm very proud of myself.

