

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 22, 2024



STEVE PATE (-6)

Q. Steve Pate, 6 under, that matches the lowest round. You played here last year. Low round for the day so far. How did it feel out there?

STEVE PATE: Oh, that's a good question. It felt good for a while, hit a lot of good shots, made it twice from off the green, made some good putts. Then hit some God-awful shots and got it up and down, made a double. I don't know, there was some good and there was some smoke and mirrors.

Q. So the eagle on 18, kind of walk us through that one.

STEVE PATE: Hit a really good drive, I hit 227. I hit a 5-wood that I bought in the pro shop yesterday because mine became a casualty in the pro-am. Atmospheric conditions caused the shaft to crystalize and I needed a new one. First time I hit it, I hit it to about 15 feet and made it.

Q. And you played here in Morocco in 2020 for the event in Marrakesh, but first time playing in Rabat?

STEVE PATE: No, I played here last year, I played here last year.

Q. The experience this year versus last year?

STEVE PATE: It's been great so far. I've loved every time I came here. I eat really well, I love the food here. That's important to me.

Q. Walk me through your third and fourth on 5.

STEVE PATE: What's 5?

Q. The par 5, the one you birdied.

STEVE PATE: OK, third and fourth. Yeah, hit a pretty good drive. I can't reach, so I laid up to 120 yards, a perfect number for my gap wedge and I hit it to three feet. I knew Al was watching so I had to make it.

Q. You guys were laughing coming off the green. What was that joke about?

STEVE PATE: Oh, Al used to try to tell me after I made a birdie, or if I made a birdie following a bogey or double, "nice bounce-back." I told him if he ever said that again he was



fired, so he held his tongue.

Q. Talk to me about this 5-wood. What is it?

STEVE PATE: It's a Callaway Big Bertha. I think it's something they made three, four years ago, I don't know. I've seen them. It's brand new. I don't know, I think it's a previous generation of a general marketplace club. I went in there and yeah, this looks pretty good.

Q. So when did you get to test it out? Did you go on the range?

STEVE PATE: I hit 10 shots on the range with it yesterday and about five this morning. Really hadn't planned on using it, but I had no other choice. The numbers, I had no other choice.

Q. Obviously it felt good.

STEVE PATE: Yeah, worked pretty good.

