

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
**March 7, 2024**



**JOE HIGHSMITH (-7)**

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**Q. Joe, thanks for joining us for a minute or two.**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** Of course.

**Q. Great start, bogey free 7-under 65. Just a few comments on how you got the job done.**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** Yeah, it was a pretty good day all around, like smooth sailing, for sure. I just kind of stayed out of trouble all day and did a pretty good job just sticking to my process all day. Made a lot of putts early, which helps kind of get the day going, for sure. Yeah, just kind of kept on the gas all day, so it was great.

**Q. I know it sounds like an obvious question with your score, but how do you feel about the course? Do you feel like it's the type of course that sets up well for your game?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** I think so. Yeah, it's a pretty gettable course. I feel like my game travels pretty well. I'm not sure if it necessarily sets up great for me, but I just had a good day out there and was able to kind of take advantage of some tough shots.

I felt like I made, yeah, a few like pretty good birdies on some tough holes and that's always great. Yeah, but the course is, it's pretty scorable, but with the wind out there it's not too easy so you've still got to stay in it, but yeah, it was good.

**Q. How much of a learning curve between last year, first year on Korn Ferry, first year rookie year out here, finished strong obviously with your top-3 finishes in the last two events on Korn Ferry, how much of a learning process has this all been for you? And with that question asked, how comfortable are you with everything you're kind of taking in?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** Yeah, I think it's probably been a little tougher start to this year than it was last year. I felt like I pretty early on had played well on the Korn Ferry and that was nice to see. I think it's the same thing.

We had a pretty good break between that season and this and I feel like I kind of developed a few bad habits, so it's been a tough start to the year and haven't been playing too well.

But today I just got back to the basic stuff that works. It was nice to see a good score posted and feel like I was kind of playing my game again.

I think the adjustment's been OK. I felt like maybe in a little over my head at some of the tournaments seeing like Rory and all these guys out there. It still feels kind of a little crazy to be playing out here. This week's nice, obviously a little bit more comfortable at a tournament like this. Yeah, but the adjustment's been fine and yeah, hoping to kind of keep going.

**Q. And last question for you, a round like this, I know it's just one round, a great round at that, but what do you take away from it mentally? Are one who kind of keeps that momentum going or do you keep yourself in check and think, all right, we've got this job done, just move on to the next one and just kind of keep it going?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** Yeah, I think today was a lot of progress on the mental side. I felt like this year I just haven't done a great job kind of just focusing and being like clear on what I'm trying to do out there. It's been easy to get distracted with a lot of stuff out here.

Today was nice to kind of get back to the basics and see that work, which was great. I think going forward, yeah, just try to keep doing the same things. I've been kind of charting each shot and how well I did on the mental side and it's been working well so hopefully I can keep it going.