

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
March 28, 2024



JOE HIGHSMITH (-5)

Q. Joe, so along similar lines, solid start, 5 under. What would you say was the key to your good play out there today?

JOE HIGHSMITH: Yeah, I've got to say ball-striking if I were to pick one probably, but I putted really well. I'll be curious to see what the stats show, but it just was very solid kind of all around. I only made maybe one or two mistakes out there. It felt great, like everything was just right on. I was hitting it where I was looking, I feel like I was in a good frame of mind all day. Yeah, so all around it was pretty good.

Q. You mentioned to Damon just now about the adjustment of the awe that could be natural coming onto the PGA TOUR. Could you reflect a little bit on where that awe comes from, like why you think you felt that way, which is awesome to hear?

JOE HIGHSMITH: I've wondered the same thing. I think it's just maybe watching guys on TV. I mean, even just like seeing Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas on the putting green last week, it's just like how am I in the same tournament with these guys. I've watched them growing up. I'm sure that contributes to it a little bit, but maybe building up the PGA TOUR to be this pinnacle that it really is, but just kind of like looking forward to it your entire life and then finally being out here, it's just a little crazy, I guess, yeah.

Q. There's something to be said there's a way like to hold onto that throughout your career in a little bit of a way it can help you in like just keeping that appreciation for being out here because obviously it's a process and a business and everything, but just to keep kind of that childlike appreciation?

JOE HIGHSMITH: Totally, I think so, yeah, for sure. I don't imagine ever getting tired of being on Tour. I may feel differently 20 years down the road, but especially at this point, like it's say just so cool being out here at all. So to come out and have a little bit of success has been great.

Q. What was it like being in the mix down the stretch in Puerto Rico as you look back on that and what did you learn?

JOE HIGHSMITH: Yeah, it was -- I thought that that event, obviously like off-week event, it's not quite as big as maybe some of the other ones I've played in. I was fairly comfortable. It kind of felt like a Korn Ferry event. Obviously it's not, it's a PGA TOUR, there's a lot on the line so like the pressure was definitely higher, but at the same time there weren't like too many people watching. I think that contributes a lot to kind of the feel of these events, like the fans and stuff.



I mean, it didn't feel too crazy coming down the stretch, but obviously like when you start to think about kind of what's on the line with a win and getting like a two-year exemption and all that, like there's just a lot more at stake obviously than probably what I've played for before. Yeah, it wasn't probably anything too different though than what I felt like trying to either win Korn Ferry events or trying to secure my card. Like all the pressure is kind of the same feeling.

Q. What was it like seeing Clay Feagler win on Americas, your former Pepperdine teammate? What was -- just winning as a Monday qualifier.

JOE HIGHSMITH: It was awesome. Like I was so pumped for Clay, like he's such a great player and sometimes it's just hard to get status sometimes and get going. I know he Mondayed, he had like maybe three Monday playoffs before that and he was just so close like right on the verge of breaking through and then finally gets in and then he wins. I was so happy for him, he deserves it more than anybody, so that was great to see.

Q. Is there anything that you've picked Sahith's brain on at all? Have you spent any time with him out here this year?

JOE HIGHSMITH: A little bit, we played a couple practice rounds together. Probably haven't asked him maybe too many questions about much, but he's always been super encouraging kind of along those lines of just like, you know, like telling me that you're good enough to be out here. It's just been great to see as a fan just following his success as well because I've known him for a while now and played alongside him quite a bit in college, and to see all the cool things that he's done is pretty incredible. Yeah, he's just been a great friend to me since we met.

Q. And what's your take on just how dominant Scottie Scheffler has been? Have you spent any time with him, played any rounds with him at all? Kind of a crazy ball-striking run he's been on.

JOE HIGHSMITH: Yeah, yeah, I never met Scottie. Obviously watched him quite a bit over the last few years just pretty much at the top of every single tournament he plays in. It's pretty cool to see. I feel like I like the way that he plays the game, I feel like he's not really like a mechanics guy, seems like he really is like a guy who hits shots out there. I admire that for sure and try to be like that. He's just stand out by far the best player in the world. It's pretty cool to be in a tournament with him. I saw today I think we shot the same score so that makes me feel pretty good. Yeah, I'm a huge Scottie fan, that's for sure.

Q. Is it as close as it could -- I mean, so many players on Tour, but it's almost like when you're in a field with him you kind of just naturally keep track of what he's doing just with how well he's been playing?

JOE HIGHSMITH: I think so. I mean, like he's obviously the guy who has the biggest crowd



out here. I'm always kind of looking over like there's Scottie Scheffler a couple holes over. Yeah, it's cool. It's still -- like I said earlier, like it's just crazy to be playing in tournaments with these guys. Yeah, so to be able to just like be on the same golf course as Scottie is pretty cool.

