

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
March 28, 2024



DAVIS RILEY (-5)

Q. All right, Davis, so nice 5-under 65 to begin play here at Memorial Park. How would you assess the day and what was clicking for you?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, hit it really well, made some nice mid length putts. Missed a couple inside of six, seven feet that kind of hurt, but playing really well. Been looking -- it's been a slower start to the year so kind of looking to get things going in the right direction and today is certainly a step in the right direction for sure.

Q. And then the eagle on 16, could you talk through that?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, that was really nice. I hit a nice drive down the fairway, I think I had 267 hole. I was kind of between clubs, I didn't know if I was going to go for it, but as I was making the decision the wind started to pick up at my back, which made it a perfect hybrid. Yeah, hit it right on the button and up there to about 10 feet.

Q. How would you say the course plays different in the spring as opposed to when you would have played here in the fall of '22?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, it plays a lot different in my opinion as opposed it when it's dormant and tight, especially around the greens because when it's the tight dormant stuff it's super hard to get good contact and it's really penal when you're missing the greens. Now it's tight but, like the overseed is soft enough where you can get good contact. The greens are just a hair softer so I feel like it plays a little bit easier maybe than it would when it's dormant in the fall.

Q. What would you say has been the key to your kind of turnaround? You yourself admitted slow starter this season, what's working for you now that maybe wasn't before?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, actually I'm starting to rehash some old memories with my old swing coach, Jeff Smith. I reached out to him after Jacksonville, I was struggling a little bit. Yeah, felt like I just developed a couple bad habits that I had missed along the way and got some good clarity and it's been pretty nice -- missed the cut last week but played a lot of good golf, just had a bad finish. Yeah, he's been a help there and getting some clarity and getting things going in the right direction. He's certainly been a help.

Q. For the dimpleheads at home, anything specific that has clicked or was it like path or something in the fundamentals?



DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, for me, just I have a tendency to kind of get low and shut and I never get it back out in front of me and then I'm kind of protecting a left miss and that's kind of when I (indiscernible) because I get a lot of play at the bottom. So just trying to keep the club more in front of me going back and then from there it's kind of a domino effect, everything starts to line up a lot better.

Yeah, it's been as simple as that, thankfully. Just trying to translate it to the course and today I was able to do that, so I was happy.

Q. When you kind of found the fix or when you finally hit that first swing where it kind of made sense, was it kind of like frustrating that maybe you'd been like, oh, I didn't figure this out sooner?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, for sure. That's why golf is the crazy game it is because we always think it's some science project and it's usually something as simple as, all right, let's just take the club straighter away or let's just keep the club in front of us. Yeah, that's why we're all crazy people out here pulling our hair out.

Q. Anything special for you just playing in Texas? Is it a little more special than the other 49 states?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, for sure. It's certainly nice when you can take your own car to a tournament for once. I've got my parents and my wife and dog here, so have a lot of people that I'm familiar with. That's certainly nice to hear a couple extra cheers out there when we're playing well.

Q. You've played with Scottie kind of throughout junior golf, amateur golf, and now just seeing his crazy run, what's it been like seeing that and does it surprise you in any way or did you know that he had that in him?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, he's always been a good player, he's been at the top of the level at every stage, the junior golf level, the college golf level and now out here, so it's been really inspiring and fun to watch what he's done. It's cool because I felt like I played the junior golf with him, the college golf so I've kind of seen him do every step. It sure is motivating to me because I played alongside him, obviously played him in a Junior Amateur and it's motivating, so I'm just trying to catch him. Yeah, it's pretty fun to watch and see what he's done.

Q. What's like the emotion -- obviously it's one round out of four, but just being in that spot, you're right up there around the top of the leaderboard after that slow start to the year. Do you allow yourself to be happy with your round or is too early to get that emotional?

DAVIS RILEY: No, I'm just trying to enjoy the little ones, right? Shooting a 5 under on the first day is a win. I'm just trying to build momentum. I feel like I've got some good clarity and



now it's just a matter of building momentum. I think it's OK to enjoy the really good shots you hit out there and that's something me and my caddie have talked about, just like really enjoying the good shots and that's how you build momentum and not just going along the way with the good shots and then really being hard on yourself on the bad shots. Enjoying the little wins and trying to build momentum is all I'm trying to do.

Q. Is there a moment that it clicked in this adjustment that you've had recently?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, last week at PLAYERS I felt like I didn't play terrible, missed the cut there. Last week I showed some signs of some really good stuff. I was playing really well early on in my rounds and just had some unfortunate finishes to my rounds last week. Then yeah, got out here and then yesterday, I mean the prep work was really good this week. So wasn't really surprised, I felt like things were going in the right direction and thankfully I was able to start executing some golf shots in tournament rounds like I started seeing the past two weeks in prep and in practice and pro-ams and stuff like that. Yeah, just trying to keep that going and try to honestly keep it as simple as possible.

Q. There was no specific shot though where you flushed it or --

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, Saturday after I missed the cut at PLAYERS, me and Jeff spent two or three hours at the back of the range there. I can't point to a particular spot, but just that conversation helped me out a lot. Yeah, it's been fun to see what I've been able to do in two weeks with it and I'm looking forward to just building on it.

