

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
March 29, 2024



JOE HIGHSMITH (-5)

Q. Joe, nice playing today. How would you describe that round? If you look at the scorecard, it's a bit everything, a bit of a mixed bag. How would you describe it?

JOE HIGHSMITH: Yeah, pretty crazy. Obviously doesn't have a very good feeling finishing like that making two bogeys and a double on the back nine, but it was so brutal out there the entire round and like by the end of the day the greens were like crusty. The wind like just never let up, like literally all day there was pretty much never an easy shot. Still to get out of there in even par was great, but not a great feeling to obviously shoot 3 over on the back nine. Still, I'm in a good position and definitely happy with how I played.

Q. Do you like the challenge of when it's difficult, like more difficult than it was yesterday?

JOE HIGHSMITH: I do. I think it -- I feel like for me it works well because it just kind of keeps you on your toes all day, like you know you can't slip at all because you're going to make like doubles as soon as you make a bad swing, so I do like it. I think it's nice to have a challenge like that where it's not quite like a shootout or birdie-fest and you've kind of got to grind and pars are good. I do like that style of golf, for sure. I think it sets up pretty well for me.

Q. You've been in contention a little bit for the last three, four weeks. What have you learned while being in the mix?

JOE HIGHSMITH: Yeah, honestly I've been surprised at like it really feels the same as being in the mix in any other tournament. Obviously I haven't quite like been in the mix other than Puerto Rico on a Sunday or on the weekend in one of these bigger events so that might be a little bit still like just a learning curve for me to work through that hopefully this week and then in the future.

I've learned a lot. Puerto Rico was great to kind of just feel like you feel the same things that I felt like coming down the stretch in a Korn Ferry event or even trying to win in college or whatever. Yeah, hopefully it's more of the same. Obviously stakes are much higher out here, but the pressure you feel is kind of the same so I feel like it's nice to just know you're going to be feeling the same stuff, you're going to be nervous. I've had to work through plenty of those nervous moments before.

Q. The eagle out there, I'm assuming that might be the highlight or the best moment out there. Can you just walk us through that?



JOE HIGHSMITH: Yeah, that was crazy. I was trying to hit it about 20 feet below that hole and I hit it way too hard and I was thinking just don't fly this green to that back pin. It landed in a perfect spot and just a miracle for that thing to go in. It was such a steal to make two on a hole that I was definitely trying to make four on, so that one felt pretty good, for sure.

Q. How long does it take for you to calm down after something like that?

JOE HIGHSMITH: Yeah, a little bit. The next tee shot heart was still racing a little bit. It's not quite the same as a hole-in-one, but it was still a little bit of a rush. There weren't too many people out watching me so we didn't have quite like a crazy roar or anything that might have changed that, but I was fairly calm by the next hole.

Q. Finally, what do you look forward to the most tomorrow?

JOE HIGHSMITH: I think just the challenge. I know it's going to be really hard out there. There's so many guys on the board right there, it's like you know you've got to really bring it on every shot. I think just for me at this age playing out here, like any kind of experience I can get is a huge bonus and like being in the mix on the weekend out here is going to be like just great learning regardless of how it goes, so I'm looking forward to that.

Q. I said one more but I've got another one. Being a lefty, I see Akshay's up there on the leaderboard, is there something about this course that might favor a left hander?

JOE HIGHSMITH: I'm not sure. This course, you've really got to hit like every shot and it's just so hard around the greens and with swirling crosswinds and the way the pins are out there and like all the slopes around the greens, like I don't know if it necessarily favors one shape more than the other. You've really got to kind of do it all. Hopefully it sets up good for the leftys on the weekend.

