## ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES March 30, 2024

## Texas Children's HOUSTON OPEN

## NICK DUNLAP (-8)

Q. So I guess the last couple of months since you won out in California, how much more comfortable are you now with whether it's just routine knowing what's coming up than you were two months ago?

**NICK DUNLAP:** A little. It's still new and I still get lost and don't know where to register and don't know where dining is. As far as I'm getting a little bit more comfortable out there. It obviously helps, today played alongside Gary and almost every week playing with either Scottie or Sam, practice rounds, just being in their company has helped me.

Q. What was the biggest key today? I know you were out there early. Did you have a number in mind or did you want to go out and see what happened?

**NICK DUNLAP:** No. I was at dinner last night, we were at Cheesecake Factory with Hunter, we were going through the round saying OK, I could do this better, do this better. All I tried to do today was play perfect with what I had, not necessarily like perfect golf but getting the easy ones up and down, not three-putting. You're not going to make every putt and you're not going to hit every wedge close, but from where I was trying to play a perfect round of golf and I feel like I did that.

Q. What about this golf course do you think suits your game so far?

**NICK DUNLAP:** You can hit it far on every hole. I mean, you can hit it far, it's fairly open, the greens are pure and you kind of give yourself 20 feet all day and I feel like that's a strong part of my game.

Q. Did you catch yourself at all today as you're pouring in birdie after birdie looking up at the leaderboard just to maybe check where you were at?

**NICK DUNLAP:** They're everywhere, but I did on 16 just to kind of look. There's a lot of golf still left to be played, but I think it's hard not to look at those sometimes.

Q. What would you say has been kind of the biggest difference this week to allow you to be in this spot on the leaderboard compared to your last few tournaments of kind of middling results, I guess?

**NICK DUNLAP:** Try not to be too hard on myself. I'm quickly learning the gap between playing really good golf and average golf out here is very, very small. I think you can look at the cuts each week, there's a cut at even par and 4 under's almost in top-10, so it's very, very small. A couple putts here, a couple up-and-downs there and you're right where you



want to be.

Q. What was it like seeing your roommate Jonathan Griz get his first college win?

**NICK DUNLAP:** Awesome. Yeah, he deserves it, man, he works extremely hard. I think he had a 10-shot lead at one point, which is unbelievable. Yeah, it's going to be fun watching all of them at the end of the year.

Q. I know you played a practice round with Scottie this week on Tuesday?

**NICK DUNLAP:** Tuesday.

Q. What is it like when you are playing with someone who's on such a crazy heater like that? Do you find yourself like observing or asking questions or picking his brain, seeing just what he's doing, or is that one of those things where you don't want to think too much?

**NICK DUNLAP:** Yeah, I think he plays practice rounds the same way he plays tournament rounds. He obviously doesn't miss very many golf shots at all, he's putting a lot better. It was funny, yesterday or I guess, no, it was Tuesday, so a couple days ago he's like, well, I guess the two-week trial with this putter's up. I was like, well, I think you should keep putting with it. He misses it -- he misses it on the right side of the hole, gets the easy ones up and down, does everything well that you're supposed to do and then obviously very good under pressure.

Q. It kind of feels like for as good as he is, he still has maintained kind of a normal demeanor just the way he goes about life and the way he hangs out?

**NICK DUNLAP:** Yeah, he's the same person whether he finishes 50th or first and I think that shows who he is.

Q. What's the connection with him, playing all the practice rounds with him? Did you know him from --

**NICK DUNLAP:** No, he just kind of was -- I played a practice round with him at Pebble, it was my first one after AmEx, and I've played a couple with Sam as well. They kind of like to team up on Tuesday and they're hard to beat. No, he's just been gracious enough for me to play a couple practice rounds with him and try to learn from him.

Q. Is there ever a time that you forget you're not in college anymore?

**NICK DUNLAP:** Yeah, yeah, when I'm out here. I'm still living there and it's nice to go back and see all the guys and hang out with them. Reminds me that I'm still a college student.

Q. You touched on this earlier, talking about getting more confident each week. In



general, what's the experience been like the last few months since turning pro, playing with the big boys of golf?

**NICK DUNLAP:** That they're really good, they're really good. I've got to do the little things better, whether that's the little up-and-downs. I think out here everybody thinks that they hit the super hard shots well, and they do sometimes, but it's the easy shots and the lag putts that they don't stress about, they hit 'em to kick-in and they move on and that's something that I've got to get better at.

