

VERITEX BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 QUOTES

April 26, 2024



GRIFFIN WOOD (-18)

Q. Heck of a round. Have you flirted with 59 before, anything that low before?

GRIFFIN WOOD: A couple times, yeah, but not -- not in a Korn Ferry Tour event or something this big. Yeah, I shot 59 four or five years ago out in Arizona in like a little skins game. Then I shot -- this is bad, but I either shot 59 or 60 in a tournament last fall, too, to win. So it was pretty cool.

But I didn't know I was around 59. I thought I was maybe around 61 or 2. I kind of was just not paying attention and with it being par 71, yeah, that helped get lower, get there.

Q. Where have you played most of your pro golf to this point?

GRIFFIN WOOD: So I've got a lot of mini tours in the U.S., played on the Dakotas Tour, I played everywhere, APT a little bit, the Asher Tour out in Phoenix and I played also in Canada two years ago. I had conditional, so I played there half a season. Last year I had conditional, but I didn't get into anything. Yeah, so mostly in the U.S. I've been playing full time for about five years in total even though I'm a little older, I had to take some time off. A little later progression.

Q. Rationale behind the time off?

GRIFFIN WOOD: I had a back injury where I couldn't play for a couple years. When I came back, I was not shooting 60s on courses. I had to work to support myself and try and get my game back and try and play as much as I could.

Q. What years was like the injury gap and then --

GRIFFIN WOOD: I played one year out of college. So I graduated in 2012, played for a year. Played pretty well, like was -- so I kind of proved to myself I could do it in small mini tours.

Then I got hurt right before Q-School right out of college, it would have been 2013. Then I was off for a couple years and was kind of pedaling around for a while. I've been back for the last four, I'd say, playing pretty full time and trying to get back.

Q. And then you mentioned just working to support yourself. Were you working at a golf course, odd jobs?



GRIFFIN WOOD: Yeah, I caddied a lot. I actually caddied out here for seven or eight events back in like 2016, I'd say, 2016, '17. I had some buddies out here that I traveled with some. But I've had -- I was caddying at a course out in Arizona in the winters in my offseason. I've had some great help from some people, from family and friends and some people out there that got me to be able to start playing full time again and that's made all the difference.

Q. Who are the friends that you caddied for?

GRIFFIN WOOD: Yeah, so it kind of started my family friends that I played high school golf with, their family helped me out a little bit to get me back on my feet. The Phillips family back in Booneville, I've got to give them a shout-out because I didn't shout them out when I won last fall in a small tournament in my hometown. He caddied for me, Brendon Phillips. I didn't say anything, so I've got to redeem myself here, but they helped me.

Then I met Amy and Tim Lewis in Phoenix and they've helped me tremendously in the last couple years to allow me to do things like this, come and play at a Monday qualifier, afford to do it and get my game sharp enough to be able to do this.

Q. And when you caddied, who were the friends that you had on Tour?

GRIFFIN WOOD: Oh, so I had friends that were caddying out here and they were -- so I caddied, like traveled with them while they were working for some guys, too. There are still a couple guys out here that I know, like Kyle (indiscernible), he's caddying for Hank Lebioda right now.

Q. Take us through the playoff Monday as well, the Monday qualifier.

GRIFFIN WOOD: Yeah, I was playing solid golf and I bogeyed my last home in regulation. It was a pretty easy hole and I was pretty devastated because I thought that would be the difference. I was the last tee time off, so I got in and saw immediately that it would have put me into a playoff.

But I rebounded really well because after I made that bogey, you know, you can go south quick. Yeah, me and another guy, Matt Atkins, birdied the first hole in a five-for-two, kind of worked out. I had my head on straight, that was the big thing, and I was able to play right after I finished. I went right to the playoff hole, which helped. But it was cool. We finished in the dark, we didn't have any more time to play another hole and it worked out perfectly.

Q. Did you like set any goals for yourself coming into like the week or have you not have much time to think of it?

GRIFFIN WOOD: That's another -- it kind of worked out that way, too. We got done at 8:00 on Monday night and it's a scramble. This is my first Korn Ferry Tour event, so it's a scramble to figure out how to get out on the course and see it on Tuesday. I kind of luckily



have been distracted, I guess, and just gone a mile a minute.

I had goals going into the season to play in these events. At least achieved a goal early on to Monday qualify into one, which is good.

Q. And then playing tomorrow afternoon, what do you think when you get home, have some time tonight, what do you think will be on your mind the most?

GRIFFIN WOOD: I'm going to try and keep -- I'm staying with another buddy, my old neighbor from back home. I'm going to make him keep me busy. That helps when you're not thinking, you can turn your mind off a little bit.

But it's going to be -- I don't know, got a lot of confidence from the way I've played obviously and I have belief in myself, so that's important. Just got to keep remembering that, reminding myself of that.

Q. Did caddying change your perspective as a player at all?

GRIFFIN WOOD: Made me hungrier, I guess. It was helpful to caddie out here and to see what it took, I guess. See how guys do it out here, what the day to day is. I learned a lot from that, for sure.

I mean, yeah, all the time I had to take off and wasn't playing well enough and was struggling so much, that definitely was humbling, that's for sure.

Q. And how did you pass time during the weather delay?

GRIFFIN WOOD: We warmed up twice. I ate -- I only ate once. I decided not to eat the first time and then we warmed up and we were ready to go to the carts and somebody from the Tour is like, yeah, we're not going. So I came straight in and ate.

I actually talked to some guys that I think are maybe part of the sponsorship here that I'm sitting with while we ate because the players room was packed, so we just went into the volunteer dining room. Yeah, talked to some guys.

Same deal, try to distract myself, not think too much. I was only 1 under at the time, so I don't know, wasn't as nervous, I guess, that I was trying to protect anything, if that makes sense. I mean, I was nervous, for sure, coming into -- throughout the day.

Q. Anything in particular like clicked when you came back out?

GRIFFIN WOOD: I chipped in on my first hole. It was very similar momentum today to yesterday. I started off kind of slow and luckily I had 9, 10, 11 in the middle of my round today, so those are scoring holes and I knew those were coming up.



Once I chipped in on 7, I knew I was in business because if I get one here and on 10 I'd be in really good shape. Then I made some really good putts on the back nine on 12 and 13, 20-footers. That's kind of my bread and butter. Yeah, the greens are very similar to where I'm from in Arizona, so I'm pretty comfortable on them.

