



Q. Shawn, six birdies and just the one bogey at 16 today. Got to be feeling good about the round especially with this heat?

SHAWN STEFANI: Yeah, it was nice. I did a lot of great things today, and on top of that I stayed patient and just kind of tried to play one shot at a time. So it was nice to get off to a good start, especially in this heat. You know, I it kind of maybe started wearing on me just a little bit the last couple holes, you kind of start getting hungry, trying to eat lunch and started to get a little hotter. But it was nice, it was nice to play well today and get the tournament started on the right foot.

Q. Did you feel a round like this coming on? What you have been most pleased with coming in as far as your game goes?

SHAWN STEFANI: You know, I've been striking the ball really well the last several events, the last two events I played.

Q. In Reno you were striking the ball well.

SHAWN STEFANI: Reno, struck it great. Struck it great at Congressional, too, just kind of misreading a lot of putts. I tried trusting myself a lot more today with my reads and just believing that hey, look, this is right and just committing to it and it seemed to work out really well. So I'm going to definitely continue to do that the rest of the week for sure.

Q. Course in good shape, set up well for you obviously?

SHAWN STEFANI: Yeah. I mean, I've played well, you know, on some RTJ courses. You know, it kind of reminds me of being home with the heat. Kind of reminds me of being on the Hooters Tour honestly because we played some courses like this on the Hooters Tour. I'm used to that. It's nice to be in the hot weather. So definitely used to it, so I'm going to try to go back and rest and cool off a little bit.

Q. Shawn, you can answer really to anybody, six birdies, just the one bogey at 16, got to be happy about the round?

SHAWN STEFANI: Yeah, it's nice. You know, definitely with the heat the golf course is long. I wouldn't say the golf course is playing terribly difficult, but it's nice to get out there and hit some good shots and honestly make some putts because that's really where I've been held back here recently.

Q. You mentioned going back to Congressional you've really noticed your ball

striking's getting to the point to where you want it. Is it really carrying over and giving you some confidence coming into this week?

SHAWN STEFANI: It is, for sure. I've been hitting the ball well now for several events and feel like my reads have been off a little bit on my putts. Kind of haven't been trusting my reads, so today I just really did a good job of committing to my read and really trusting it and just letting it go. That's all we can do is try to hit the best shots we can and commit to our reads the next couple days and see what happens. It was actually nice to see some balls go in the hole today.

Q. Blaine Barber said this is a tricky golf course. Would you agree?

SHAWN STEFANI: I mean, it is if you get your ball out of position. If you're hitting it as well as I did today, it doesn't seem that difficult. But I never really -- the only bogey I made today was on 16 and it was because I hit my second shot in the water, but other than that I never really struggled for pars. I made a good par on 18, but I wasn't really struggling to make pars. When you're hitting the ball well, yes, it's not a difficult golf course. When you're not spot on, it can be, for sure.

Q. I heard you say conditions kind of remind you of a Hooters Tour type of event down in the south. Does this kind of set up for you a little bit tee to green where if you hit the ball in the fairway you're going to have chances?

SHAWN STEFANI: Yeah, no doubt. I wasn't here last year but the course is softer they said than it was last year. You know, the greens aren't super fast. There's a lot of slope in the greens, they're not super firm, so if you're playing out of the fairway you can be aggressive and hit good shots into the holes, you know, obviously with these big quadrants on the greens. But it definitely feels like a Hooters Tour event with the heat, that's all we used to play in is the heat. The heat doesn't bother me. You do get a little warm out there, but it's the south in July. It's hot at home in Houston so I'm kind of used to it.