

Round 1 Interview: SAM SAUNDERS
March 23, 2017

Q. Here with Sam Saunders. We were just talking on air about Clemson, how great they are, winning the College Football Playoff, but I want to talk about last week. Obviously a very emotional week, you obviously the grandson of Arnold Palmer. There was an incredible outpouring of support from everybody there. What surprised you the most?

SAM SAUNDERS: Well, it was a wonderful week from the volunteers, tournament staff, players, everybody was just fantastic, the tour reps. But what really got me the most I think was on Wednesday when we did the opening ceremony, the new tradition that we're starting every year. I think we had over 70 players out there to hit a tee shot. I want to say pretty much every player that was not out playing in the pro-am was on the range to be there and be a part of that. That is just remarkable. I mean, we were anticipating maybe having 20 or 30 guys, and to have over 70 guys come out there to pay their respects, it meant the world to me and our entire family.

Q. I liked the red cardigan tribute. How much will you be involved going forward with the Arnold Palmer Foundation?

SAM SAUNDERS: Well, I never would ask to be, you know, a part of it other than what they would like me to do. They wanted me to be involved last week, and I certainly would never step in on my own and ask to do things. But if they want me to be there and be a part of it, then I'm honored to do it. And last week was great and I hope I managed it okay, and I think going forward I will have a pretty significant role. But we would like to grow and try to get better every year and any part I can have in that is, like I said, I would be honored to do it.

Q. As we worked through the rain here, 70 today, you lost in a playoff here two years ago. What do you like about this track?

SAM SAUNDERS: It's a great layout, it's a good golf course. Today was the calmest I've ever played it in the third year I've played here now. Obviously you see with the low scores today the course was pretty gettable. But I think we'll get some wind, the traditional wind that we get here throughout the week and start getting a little bit tougher out there. But I think it's just a great layout for the predominant wind you get here off the ocean, you get a lot of crosswinds and I tend to play well in the wind so I think that's kind of why it fits my game.