

**CAMERON CHAMP**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to introduce Cameron Champ to the OHL Classic at Mayakoba. Cameron, welcome. This will be your first start as a professional golfer on the PGA TOUR. You're attending Texas A&M and played as an amateur at a couple of events this year, firstly at the U.S. Open where you were in contention after 36 holes and ended up in the top 35, I think. Then you played at the Safeway Open earlier this season.

Just talk about the experiences of playing those two events before coming here as a professional.

**CAMERON CHAMP:** I think it was just key for me, obviously I've never been in situations like that before. Just getting to the U.S. Open how I did was kind of just -- it wasn't a shock, obviously I played very well in the qualifier, but the playoff, just how I did it gave me a big extra confidence boost. And obviously the U.S. Open course fit me well, had a lot of eyes on me with my distance-wise, but I think I kept myself pretty even keel throughout the week.

I think Saturday was kind of when I learned the most about myself with nerves and dealing with the situation, when during that round, shooting 3 under on the back side, shoot 1 over for the day.

And then obviously in Safeway, same thing, just wasn't super comfortable with myself. I think that's kind of what I learned about that event. Once I settled down, got into my groove, that's kind when everything just went. There was no pressure, there wasn't anything and that's kind of what I learned most.

Coming into this week, just a big sigh of relief almost. I kind of know what I'm expecting, I guess, inside my personal self and obviously the course. I'm just very excited to be here and grateful for the opportunity and look forward to it.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** So that was what I was going to ask you, what do you anticipate coming into this week as a professional and have you received any advice from any other Tour players or any other people as far as what to expect coming into this week?

**CAMERON CHAMP:** Just people within my group. Like I said, I learned a lot from the first two pro events I played in. Just have to get into, I guess, my own groove and how to prepare right, how many practice rounds, how much to practice, when to practice, when to leave the course, when to get there. I think I've kind got it down for myself. Played nine holes the last three days. I'll play again today and then I'll play the pro-am on Wednesday. So just kind of I think I set a plan to where I feel comfortable and that will give me the best chance to succeed this week.

**Q. Cameron, you just got through the second stage of Q-School. How did that compare pressure-wise to making your first pro start in a PGA TOUR event here this week?**

**CAMERON CHAMP:** Yeah, I mean, there's definitely pressure knowing you're either in or you're not. I got off to a good start the first two days. The third day I shot 3 over. Honestly, it really didn't feel like I played bad. The putts just weren't going, I didn't make a single putt. Hit one or two bad shots that cost me, which is pressure added.

But the final round, just to be able to -- I think I was 5 under through 11, just had it going, had a nice flow, wasn't thinking about anything, just really thinking about every hole I guess that was in front of me. So just to deal with that the way I did knowing the pressure, knowing second stage usually -- almost everyone said it's the hardest stage to get through, but just to be able to do it the way I did.

**Q. And Erin Hills obviously was a nice course for you. What about this course, it's not a big, brawny course like Erin Hills was, how does that fit your length off the tee?**

**CAMERON CHAMP:** I like it a lot. Obviously it's very demanding off the tee, but if you hit fairways here, the course is very scorable depending on the weather conditions. Obviously the wind can pick up some. I hit a lot of 2-irons here, I think half the holes I'll probably hit 2-iron on the majority of the holes. Par 5s obviously I'll hit drivers. I just kind of feel comfortable. Even though it's narrow, it's just the way it suits my eye, for some reason I just feel comfortable. Obviously if you walk down the fairway and look back at the tee, the holes are pretty narrow, but like I said, it just kind of fits my eye and suits me well.

**Q. You've been here since Saturday?**

**CAMERON CHAMP:** We got here Sunday, got here Sunday. Just been hanging out since then. Hung out that day and then played yesterday and then play today.

**Q. Since it's your first tournament like a pro, are you going to take like notes from the guys with experience like Charley Hoffman, like Pat Perez, or are you going to focus on your game, too?**

**CAMERON CHAMP:** Yeah, obviously if I play with a few of them in the practice rounds, I'll definitely pick their brains kind of where pins were in previous years, obviously where are terrible places to miss it, where are places that are okay. But I think I just feel comfortable in my game knowing what I can do, knowing my misses, knowing my strengths and just playing to those. Obviously most of the stuff just for golfers I guess is just don't miss short-sided. I mean, it's just kind of obvious stuff, but just try to pick the course apart the best you can. Obviously I'll pick other players' brains if I play with them or talk to them, so yeah.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I don't want to jump ahead too much, but turning professional at a

young age is a big decision. What sort of plan do you have going forward as far as where will you play and what do you intend to do?

**CAMERON CHAMP:** Yeah, so I'll play this week and then I'll prepare for final stage, Web.com Q-School, and then obviously I think from there, depending on how I play there will kind of play out my schedule for next year. And then obviously try to get starts if I can, so that's just kind of the plan for right now and moving forward.

**Q. There was a lot of talk about how long you were off the tee at Erin Hills. Have you ever hit balls next to Dustin Johnson or Bubba and (inaudible)?**

**CAMERON CHAMP:** No, I haven't. I mean, at The Open I was kind of close to them hitting balls, but that was about it. Weren't very -- I guess didn't really talk much, I didn't really meet them. I played with Rory in the practice round that Monday, which was pretty awesome. It's really the only player I've played with that's long.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**CAMERON CHAMP:** Yeah. I'm a pretty quiet, humble kid, so I don't say much, but whenever I tee off it kind of says it all.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Anything further for Cameron? Okay. Cameron, we appreciate your time coming in and good luck this week.