

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 30, 2017



ADAM BLAND (-6)

MODERATOR: Adam, lovely round out there for you and you're tied for the lead after the first round. Can you talk us through your day?

ADAM BLAND: Yeah, kind of it was a good day obviously, but got off to a bit of a slow start early on just making a few pars. Then hit a couple nice shots and converted them, which was nice to hit them in. Probably three or four for the day that were inside that three- or four-foot range, so it was great to make those. Then kind of just kept making pars for a while until we got a couple on the back nine.

Q. There wasn't many out there, you didn't have a score (inaudible.) Did you know you were at the top of the leaderboard or was it hard to get a gauge being out there behind those big marquee groups?

ADAM BLAND: I did because I saw a couple leaderboards and I saw I think Garcia was the best in the morning, 5 under. So once I got to 6 under, then I knew it. I was just trying to make a few more birdies coming in, especially on the par 5s there I was going for it in two but didn't pan out. And obviously it would have been nice to not make a bogey on the last, but 6 under's still 6 under.

Q. The conditions this afternoon were pretty perfect, weren't they? Very little wind. When you look at the scoring this afternoon, it was very good. How would you describe the conditions?

ADAM BLAND: Yeah, I think we definitely had the better side of the draw today. I think it rained -- did it rain a lot this morning on and off all the time? So it just makes it hard with those holes that are playing into the wind and raining a little bit longer. But the conditions are perfect. The greens were soft so we could attack, and I just had some good numbers with my irons so I just kept attacking as much as I could.

Q. The lie on the left-hand side of 18, was it just a bit muddier and wetter than you thought it was going to be or did you hit it just a little heavy?

ADAM BLAND: Just an average golf shot. I didn't do my homework with that green at all. I didn't really know what was long. All I saw in the book was what was deep and I thought I don't want to go down there. I probably hit the wrong club and the wrong shot. It didn't pan out and I left myself in a bad position.

Q. You haven't won -- I think you might have won other tour events, haven't you? You won in Canada, you won in Japan, you haven't won a mainstream Australasian

Tour event thus far, am I right?

ADAM BLAND: Yeah, you're right, yep.

Q. This year, can you just describe this year for you? You're about 40th on the money list in Japan at the moment at the start of the Open. How would you describe your season?

ADAM BLAND: A little bit disappointing. I felt like I was playing okay in parts, but I've been working on my game pretty hard to change the shape of the shots I hit and trajectory and that. So there was glimpses of some great stuff and then there was some shocking stuff as well.

Overall I guess I've got to be happy with what I've achieved this year. Still been pretty consistent but obviously haven't had a win for a couple years, and I haven't had many high finishes either, so I've just been treading water a little bit over there in Japan.

Q. The back nine, do you think it sets up really well for you as a left hander, you can hit a lot of draws off the tees coming in on the par 4s and 5s?

ADAM BLAND: If the wind's coming out of the left and I can hit a draw, yeah. If it's coming out of the right and I've got to hit a draw, no. I don't know, I don't really think any golf course sets up better for left or right handers because everyone hits it differently and everyone's comfort zones are always different as well on certain holes. So it seemed to be all right for me today. I hit the shots when I needed to, good ones, and hopefully I can execute over the next three days.

Q. Just to follow up, how important is it in your own mind to maybe (inaudible) one of the biggest round tournaments?

ADAM BLAND: Yeah, that's always the goal every year if I can get starts in Australia and play, I always want to try and finish high up on the Order of Merit or win one of these big tournaments if I can. I haven't really -- I've been close in the past but not really, so it would be awesome to cap off one of these big ones, that's for sure.

Q. How important to the whole tournament vibe is it to have someone like Sergio in the field and to just get that feeling that it's a big stage?

ADAM BLAND: Anytime we can have a caliber like that come to Australia and play, it's awesome, also for the young guys. I'm not really young, I'm probably a few years younger than Sergio, I don't know how old he is, but if we can play with someone like him or Adam or Leishman in some third rounds, fourth rounds and put ourselves under pressure, then it's only going to help our game in the future hopefully.

Q. (No microphone.)

ADAM BLAND: Probably the one on 7, it's just a tricky shot for me with the wind out of the right off the tee, and then just from the fairway I had a perfect number again and hit in there I think two foot.

Q. (No microphone.)

ADAM BLAND: I had 9-iron.

MODERATOR: Any final questions? Thanks so much for your time today, Adam, and best of luck.