

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
May 4, 2018



SAM BURNS (-3)

Q. The eagle, what was the club in?

SAM BURNS: 5-iron.

Q. Obviously it's a difficult golf course. Do you like these conditions? I've seen you play some of the harder golf courses well. Is that something you excel at?

SAM BURNS: I don't know. I think this golf course, you can get out of position pretty quick here. So I think being able to put it in the right spots is very important out here. Hopefully, in the next couple days I can try to do that, we'll see.

Q. You're (inaudible) in strokes gained putting. Is there something that you've done to improve your putting or changed?

SAM BURNS: No. My coach and I have just been working really hard trying to stay consistent on putting. Put a lot of time and effort into it, so I think it's trending in the right direction. Hopefully just keep doing that and it will keep getting better.

Q. Are you getting more comfortable in these positions?

SAM BURNS: Yeah, I feel like it. I feel like each time I tee it up out here, I feel a little more comfortable. Starting to get to know the guys a little bit, so I think that helps. But yeah, I really enjoy it out here. Hopefully I'll be out here full time soon.

Q. What is that like to sort of live in a world of exemptions and trying to control your schedule as opposed to sort of living off other people's willingness to give you a chance?

SAM BURNS: Yeah, obviously I'm very thankful and grateful for every start that I get. Not a lot of kids my age get a lot of exemptions, so it's nice to have some under my belt. Played pretty decent so far. I think good golf usually takes care of itself, so hopefully I'll try to play well this week, the next couple days.

Q. What is your schedule going forward?

SAM BURNS: I'll play in Knoxville next week and then a week off, and then Colonial, Memorial. That will be the end of exemptions.

Q. There was a story in the Times Picayune about when you were a real little kid and

your brother took you out and he was just mystified at how naturally the club was in your hand at such a young age. At what point did you know that you had an opportunity to really do something in this?

SAM BURNS: I don't know. I really enjoyed football growing up a little bit more than every other sport, so probably not until around seventh grade is when I started to feel like I could learn how to play golf and try to get better. Football's always my thing growing up. I think my eighth grade year was the last year I played football, and then from there on I just focused on golf.

Q. We've all -- we know a lot of people who like Jim Courier loved baseball and gave it up when he realized he was just too good at tennis. Was it hard to walk away from football if you liked it that much?

SAM BURNS: Yeah, there's definitely times where I wish I was still playing. Pretty opposite sports. But yeah, I love watching it. So my dad and brother both played college football, and so I got to watch my brother a lot growing up, so that was always fun. Yeah, I still miss it, but obviously feel like I have made a better choice in golf.

Q. What position did you play?

SAM BURNS: I played strong safety, my dad played tight end, my brother played linebacker.

Q. Where did they play?

SAM BURNS: Louisiana Tech.

Q. At what point did you think, boy, I could be somebody in football, or did you ever think that?

SAM BURNS: I don't know. I guess I was still a little young to know. Who knows. I doubt it, but --

Q. Is there anything, after being paired with Tiger, is there anything that kind of intimidates you now?

SAM BURNS: I think it's all about perspective really. At the end of the day, golf is just a game. We're very fortunate that we get to be out here and play for a living, but at the end of the day, it's just a game. It's not life or death, so I think for me it's all about perspective and looking at it the right way.

Q. Was it any help that you grew up in a family where other people had competed in sports at a high level?

SAM BURNS: Yeah, I think that helps. I've gotten to lean on people in my family to ask some questions and some other people that I know. So yeah, it's definitely been a help.