

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 17, 2018

KEITH MITCHELL (-9)



Q. Tee to green looked pretty solid out there. I know you probably think you could have gotten a couple more strokes out of that round, but great position going into the weekend.

KEITH MITCHELL: Yeah, it was great out there. The wind was definitely a little bit calmer on the front nine, so that helped to hit it a little closer. Back nine definitely played tougher with some wind and I think the back nine is harder anyway. Unfortunately, I didn't finish like I started, but still very pleased with my round.

Q. Five straight out of the chute. Did you get the no-hitter treatment from anybody out there at that point in time?

KEITH MITCHELL: After my shot -- I hit actually a great shot into No. 6 and it went on the false front and came back down. That's when I knew it was -- we weren't going to birdie them all, but just to get that far is pretty cool.

Q. Your mindset this week, positioning, get some more points going into the Playoffs, your first time going into the FedExCup Playoffs next week. What's this week like in terms of just a launch pad hopefully to make a deep run?

KEITH MITCHELL: Since the Playoffs start next week, we're just looking at it like the Playoffs. This is my first playoff event technically in my mind just because I'm trying to get to Atlanta so bad. Any points for the next month and a half are huge, so we're going straight into them after this week, I'm just going to treat it like any of the rest.

Q. Keith Mitchell, started off five birdies to open the day, I thought we were going to be on another 59 watch. Things settled down for you, but overall you put yourself in good position going into the weekend. How would you rate today?

KEITH MITCHELL: Great. The wind was a little calmer in the morning, first nine, so I was able to take advantage of that. The afternoon, it played a little bit trickier on the back nine. So unfortunately, I didn't finish like I started, but still feel really happy about the day.

Q. You're one of the longest hitters on the PGA TOUR, your strokes gained numbers is 6 so far this season. This really isn't a big hitter's ballpark, but the driver seems to benefit you. How good has that club been for you?

KEITH MITCHELL: I've certainly hit my driver well, but I've hit a lot of 2-irons off these tees to just try to get it in the fairway. The rough's so gnarly out here that the fairway's a priority.

So we've been hitting a lot of little stinger 2-irons just trying to just get the ball in front of us. If you have a little extra club into the greens, it's fine because you can definitely attack from the fairway but not from the rough.

Q. You're not one of the players who has to worry about getting into the FedExCup Playoffs. Every venue you go to is basically a new one for you on the PGA TOUR. How are you able to sort of figure things out and navigate it quickly like you have?

KEITH MITCHELL: It's been tough, but it's been fun. We just try to not put too much influence on any one thing on the golf course and just play smart and conservative, which, unfortunately, I'm not very good at playing conservative. That's why I have really good weeks and poor weeks.

This week, I actually played in the FootJoy AJGA tournament probably eight, nine years ago, so I actually remember this golf course. It's benefited me a little bit, and also the clubs off the tee to hit the fairways. But looking forward to, I think we've got maybe three, maybe four new courses that we haven't played, so hopefully going to keep playing well.

Q. Talk about today.

KEITH MITCHELL: Today felt a lot like yesterday other than the start. The start was almost too good to be true. So tried to keep going as best we could this afternoon and the wind picked up a little bit, made it a little bit tougher.

But other than that, still really pleased with my game. Hit a lot of really good shots coming down the stretch. The rough out there is really tough, especially coming into the greens. It's just hard to control the ball. So if we can keep it in the fairway the rest of the week, we'll be excited.

Q. Five straight birdies to start off your round. What's it like when you're in the zone, so to speak?

KEITH MITCHELL: It's definitely a different feeling. But it's a feeling you try to get comfortable with because you want to be in that zone. So today I just tried to stay -- after No. 6 I remember I missed the green on No. 6 and it was the first kind of feeling of uncertainty and I didn't like it, so I tried to get right back there it. Unfortunately, we played good but not great. We started out great and played the rest of the way okay. So hopefully we can find that zone again. It's definitely a feeling that you strive for and that's why we play golf.

Q. You set yourself up for a great run in the Playoffs. Do you remember what you were doing this time last year and what you thought of the Playoffs?

KEITH MITCHELL: Absolutely, it's hard to forget this week last year in Portland. A lot of my good buddies are out there this week. So it's a great event. It's probably the biggest

tournament, in my opinion, in golf in terms of importance other than majors because guys can -- their dream is to get on the PGA TOUR and this is the week they can do that. Hopefully, somebody on 18 makes a putt to go to the PGA TOUR instead of misses one, but we'll see.

Q. What did you think of the Playoffs -- I mean, the FedExCup Playoffs, what did you know about it before this year?

KEITH MITCHELL: Not much other than that you play for a lot of exemptions, a lot of status and a lot of money. It's very, very fortunate to be where we are now going into the Playoffs without having to stress this week, but we're really looking at my game and liking where it is and hoping it can transform into the Playoffs.

Q. How tough is it when it hangs right there on the edge on 18?

KEITH MITCHELL: That was tough. Actually, I think I got stung by something when I was putting, maybe a sweat bee or something. I was kind of jolted after I hit it, I didn't realize it just came up short. But that's golf, that's what makes it fun. Some putts you hit great and they miss and some putts you hit poorly and they bounce in. It's just part of the game.