

MATT JAGER

Q. Matt, 4 under today and it was not that easy out there, so how did you put that score together?

MATT JAGER: I had really just a solid start. I think here when you see like people talk about starting lines, but obviously with the water and a lot of crosswinds and things like that, if you see the ball starting down the line that you choose, it gives you a lot of confidence. I was 1 over through 5 and that was just one poor swing that I made down the 5th. But quickly bounced back on 6 to get that straight back and really, you know, the back nine, judged the wind and the numbers really well and really took advantage of the par 5s. Birdied 11, and obviously the highlight was eagle on 14, and then birdied 17.

So the eagle on 14 was playing straight back into the wind. We're just trying to hit it to a number on the left side with an iron off the tee and then be quite aggressive with the second shot. So hit a great 3-wood. I mean, it was only like a 225 yardage, but with the wind it was playing in the 260s, so it was all over 3-wood, and rolled in a nice putt down the hill, so that was cool.

Q. Just talking there about the bounce-back birdie on 6, how important is that, I guess, for the mentality when it's early in the round to recover really quickly?

MATT JAGER: Yeah, absolutely. And I knew that I was swinging the club well, but anytime you make a bogey, it's just nice to get it straight back to where you were. No. 6 is a relatively short par 4 and it was a perfect wind for me down off the right, so I hit a driver up close to the green and got it up and down for birdie. Just started relaxing and kept making good swings from there on, so it was good. A nice, relaxed day to start.

Q. And you've got Ryan McCarthy on the bag and you've been working together for the last few weeks. It's proving a good team?

MATT JAGER: Yeah, absolutely. So Mac and I have been good mates for a long time, since junior days, and actually this week -- I'd played a couple of Aussie Opens here in the past and not gone particularly well, but Ryan's finished in the top 20 here as an amateur in both the Australian Opens that he played, so he's confident in the golf course. That feeds through to me. He just goes look, knowing that he's done well here and knowing that he's got the confidence in backing me, yeah, just gives me a lot of confidence out there that I can trust exactly what he's telling me, and having another pro on the bag and a good mate is really, really good, yeah.