

DAVID MICHELUZZI

KATHIE SHEARER: Great round today. Are you feeling good?

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Yeah. I'm happy, but I'm kind of not happy. I missed a few short putts on the back nine, but if someone said you're 7 under through 36 holes, I'll definitely take it.

KATHIE SHEARER: And you've got your mum and dad with you and your girlfriend, a nice little support network.

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Yeah.

KATHIE SHEARER: What did you do last night?

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Not much because I was running so much. Mum and dad had dinner by themselves, and myself, my girlfriend and my caddie, we just went to some Japanese restaurant down the road. Yeah, I was in bed pretty early.

KATHIE SHEARER: And you seem very confident this week. You feel that -- I heard you speaking yesterday and you said, well, it's a long way to go and you don't really feel very nervous?

DAVID MICHELUZZI: There is nerves. There has to be nerves because obviously it means something to me. To play in an Australian Open's just awesome. I've been dreaming about it since I was a little kid. This is my first one, so the nerves are still there, but I'm trying to do everything just to try to take my mind off it and just play golf, which I really enjoyed today.

Q. (No microphone.)

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Yeah, I birdied 12, 13, eagled 14, birdied 15. Yeah, that happened like that, so quickly, I didn't know what happened. Then I glanced at the leaderboard and I was -- I think I was 3 or 4 in front. I hit two good shots into 16 and hit a good tee shot off 17. I was kind of leaking everything a little bit right, so I was a bit tentative on that iron shot and just wasn't really committed and just hit it in the water. But I made a good up-and-down there.

And where I hit it on 18, like you're not going to make par most of the time from there, so to lip out for par wasn't too -- like I'm over it. No. 1 was really disappointing. I was pretty angry after that. Yeah, then I hit a great iron shot into 3 and thought the putt missed but went in. I was pretty happy with that. Yeah, I missed three birdie chances from inside five feet coming

in. That's why I'm not overly happy, but I'm still stoked.

Q. (No microphone.)

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Yeah, I'm going to probably turn pro in the next year. Probably this time next year I'm going to think about doing European and Japan Q-School, yeah, this time next year. The reason why? I think I've got such a long career ahead of me, like one year is not going to really make a difference. Like you never know, I could make so much money if I turned pro now or I would make nothing, I'm not too sure. At the moment, this is my first Aussie Open. I played the Japan Open six weeks ago. That was my first or second international professional event in front of big crowds, so I was nervous the whole week. So I think if I give myself like more chances in those events to I think play under that pressure, I think turning pro will be somewhat easy, even though it's very hard.

Q. What are your immediate goals then?

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Until I turn pro?

Q. Yeah.

DAVID MICHELUZZI: I'm ranked 14th in the world at the moment. I really want to get inside the top-5 before I turn pro, that would be the goal. No. 1 obviously would be awesome, but I've just got to take it one step at a time. If I get to top-5 very quickly, then I'll try and push the No. 1, but it could take until probably this time next year until I get to the top-5, I'm not too sure.

At the moment, take out all the ranking stuff, I think just work on being more mature, a bit of swing technique and stuff like that, especially on the road. This is my sixth week out of seven, so I've only been home for six days in the last seven weeks. Just to get the technique down pat. I kind of tend to get away from that and play golf, which is great, but obviously got to put good golf swings on it and try and feel like just give me a swing and I can go play with it.

Q. You're looking pretty comfortable out there today, I saw the fist pump with the caddie after the opening tee shot. How much does it give you confidence looking at guys like Lucas Herbert, sounds like you've got to be pretty patient with your decision to turn pro. If you look at the route that he's kind of taken the last 12 to 18 months, he's had (inaudible) kind of going down that path. Does that make you more confident in the path that you're setting down for yourself?

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Yeah, (indiscernible) has done an awesome job with the players over the last -- since I've been in (indiscernible.) This is my fifth year coming up, so I was in the program with Lucas, Coletta, Ruffels. Who else? Drakeford, like all those guys.

Some of those guys, they're probably not playing golf anymore, but like Lucas is like kind of

a someone to look up to at the moment. I played with him in Fiji and got some awesome advice off him. I think he was three months on the road or something like that. I wouldn't know what to do after that. I would kind of want to shut myself in my room or something. Yeah, getting advice off him, it's been great, and seeing him play well, which is awesome. I couldn't be more happy for him.

Q. (No microphone.)

DAVID MICHELUZZI: It was this time last year, I still remember it so clearly, I shot 63 at the Dunes medal and I didn't get -- I was waiting on an invite to get into this. Event, I didn't get it and I was just so frustrated. I was really -- because I was playing good golf, but felt like I wasn't getting rewarded, which is probably not the mentality you should have. And basically my coach just said, "Mate, just play golf. Seriously, just move the things to the side and just play golf and just let the results take care of itself."

Since then I came second at that event, I came second at Port Phillip, won the (Australian) Masters (of the Amateurs) and the year just took off. I got starts into Eisenhower, Asian Am, U.S. Amateur and into this, Fiji, Japan. It's just been a ridiculous ride really over the last 15 months. Yeah, kind of have to thank Marty for that, gave me a little kick up the bum, which was great.

Q. (No microphone.)

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Yeah, yeah, I was pretty mad. Played well at WI Open and got obviously everyone was happy for me but it felt like I got kind of nothing out of that and not being on the Asian a.m. team kind of cost me a couple events going into. So yeah, the events that were at home, I know those courses very well and said let's just shoot the lights out and just play well.

Q. You're going to get asked about earn badly between now and them, it's going to happen. What are your thoughts?

DAVID MICHELUZZI: It would be awesome to win. It's awesome to win any pro event as an amateur. I saw it firsthand with Zach at WA Open, I came second, and like just seeing like he's got such a great schedule these next four months. Yeah, it would be great. Obviously it would be awesome winning an event, especially -- any event's great to win. To win this week could be really good. It is in the back of my mind a little bit, but all I've got to do is just play good golf. I've been playing pretty well the last four or five weeks, so it feels like it's not going anywhere anytime soon, so just keep playing.

KATHIE SHEARER: Any more questions, ladies and gentlemen? No? Thank you very much. Keep up the good work.

DAVID MICHELUZZI: Thank you.