

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
30 November 2018

MARC LEISHMAN (-8)



Q. Marc, great round today. In a pretty good spot heading into the weekend. How are you feeling?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, feeling good. Happy with the position at the moment, two back. Lot of golf to play and the course is only getting tougher. It's starting to speed up, which is good. The sun's out, it's warm, it's only going to dry it even more. Me and Foxy were saying it's one of those courses where if you're hitting good shots, you can make a lot of birdies, but if you're just a little bit off, it's pretty brutal. So I did hit a lot of good shots and a couple of bad ones, but they didn't cause me too much damage luckily.

Q. Cam was saying just before after playing at Metro last week and the greens here are obviously different and he said it's more of a mental thing to adjust to it, to the speed of greens here. Did you find that as well?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah. I mean, like I said earlier in the week, we adjust every week. It is quite a big adjustment coming up here to completely different grass, the bermuda, and it's fairly grainy this year. They're perfect, though. They're dead smooth, just a little slower than we're used to.

So yes, it's an adjustment not just putting but chipping as well. You've got to read the grain on the chip shots. Yeah, you know, it's an adjustment that we make all the time, so it's definitely doable.

Q. Did you have a sense that Cam was generating something pretty special in the group ahead? Do you sort of get a feel for the numbers he's sort of posting when he's only one group ahead of you?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, I saw him on the front nine making a few putts. You can tell by the roars whether they're birdie or par roars and it looked like he was making quite a few birdies. Doesn't surprise me, he played well last week in his home state. Knows the grasses and has a lot of support, so we expect nothing less from him.

Q. Do you see Cam as I guess the main threat now over the weekend? Do you think he's the one that's --

MARC LEISHMAN: I mean, Jake's obviously playing very well also. You know, seems like at these events every year there's always a breakout player who comes up and maybe who you wouldn't expect.

I don't know Jake, I don't know his game, but clearly he's got a lot of it. It's good to see a new face up there. Hopefully he can continue to play well because at the end of the day you want to see good golf. Even as a player you want to see good golf and you want to see who can win with the best.

So hopefully we all play well and fight it out, and I would love to be there at the end and hopefully in front. There's a lot of golf to go, it's only halfway done, not even halfway done. Yeah, don't want to get too far ahead of myself. As long as I'm playing good and feeling good on the greens more importantly, which is good.

Q. So getting out fast today was pretty important to all that psychology, wasn't it, to just get things going?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, it was. I feel like when you make a few putts here, you can keep making them. If you miss a few early, as I showed last year on Saturday, it can -- again, it's mental, it can get to you a little bit. You feel like you have makeable putts all day and if you're not making any, it can kind of go through your whole game. To make those couple of good putts early was nice and get off to a good start, particularly after not playing awesome yesterday. To hit some good shots there on the front nine, I was happy.

Q. 16 didn't go at all your way, like you just caught it fat off the tee?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah. It's funny, that's one thing I kind of pride myself on is I generally don't mis-hit shots. That was a massive mis-hit. I thought it might have been possibly in the water. I was happy to see it go in the bunker. To be honest, it deserved to be buried, it was a horrible shot, but ended up probably right where it deserved to. I was happy to make a 4 there and get out of it. Yeah, it could have easily been worse than that, particularly with where the bunker shot finished also. Made a two-putt from 40 feet that wasn't the easiest.

Q. What club did you hit off the tee?

MARC LEISHMAN: It was a 9-iron. Well, I slapped a 9-iron I guess you would say. It wasn't really a hit.

Q. How did the crowd greet you there? They just had Beef giving them the big bowing and celebrating as he chipped in.

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, no, they were good. I think they were enjoying themselves out there. They had the music going, it's a pretty cool atmosphere out there. Yeah, they were clapping on the way off even though I had a bogey. Yeah, you have bogeys throughout the course of a tournament, too. I certainly don't let bogeys get to me like I used to.

Q. I guess one thing none of us had particularly might have seen it, but when John Senden's club snapped. Have you seen anything like that and do you think the call was the right call or lacking in common sense?

MARC LEISHMAN: I mean, it's the rules, I guess. The rules official's just following the guidelines. I wouldn't say there was any -- like, there was no lack of anything, just reading the books. That's just how it is. Unfortunately, sometimes the rules can go against you and sometimes they can work for you. Unfortunately for Sendo there, that was a bad break. I mean, not much you can do about it. Yeah, the rules official was just doing his job, so it certainly wasn't on him.

Q. Harold ended up saving par but made a bit of a mess of the. Did your tee shot go in the water at 9?

MARC LEISHMAN: No, my second shot. I hit it in the fairway bunker and the ball was a bit above my feet. I misjudged the wind a bit, and as soon as I hit it, I knew where it was going. Yeah, dropped it up there, had a really tough chip. So I was trying to chip it up on the green somewhere and limit the damage, I guess. I didn't play the par 5s great today, which hurt me. I may have played them even par.

Q. I think Harold said it was really tricky, that's actually a really tricky tee shot on 9.

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, very tricky tee shot. You've got water left, you've got the bunker I think 280 to clear it on the right. Yeah, tough hole. If you hit a good tee shot, it's a very gettable hole.

Q. You can play short of the bunker obviously, but you'll probably make the second hard?

MARC LEISHMAN: Exactly.

Q. How do you get the balance out here of aggression and patience?

MARC LEISHMAN: That hole I chose to attack just because there is plenty of room out there, and if you lay up there there's a shorter bunker that you have to get over also, and if you pull it you can still go in the water. It's just a really well-designed hole. I'm normally pretty aggressive on this golf course, obviously not reckless, but I feel like it's one that if you hit good shots, you can really take advantage of.