

BEN CRANE (-7)

Q. Ben, a really good start through two rounds so far. You're one shot back of the lead right now. What's kind of been the key to your success through Thursday, Friday?

BEN CRANE: Well, I'm striking it a little better this week. I figured out a little key last week with my swing, so that's helpful. I'm getting more opportunities. Then we just cleaned up the putting a little bit, so I made some really key putts this week. When you're making those six-, eight-footers, it just seems to free you up a little bit. So I made some key par saves to keep some rounds going where I hadn't been doing that.

But this week, you know, I've made some of those key putts for par to keep me going and had some good looks at birdie and hit a couple shots close, so I've just played really well overall, driven it really well the last couple days.

Q. What about playing in this wind, how difficult has it been?

BEN CRANE: Yeah, this is a great golf course. I love this course, and when the wind's up like it is right now, it is tough. So the crosswinds, it moves your 6-iron maybe as much as 20 yards to the right or left, so you've really got to be working your golf ball well and hitting little shapes to keep the curve down to a minimum. And then certainly when you're into the teeth of the wind, it just exposes any miss, but I've done that well and been able to play incredibly well. 7 under's a great place to be going into the weekend.

Q. You made two cuts so far this year. How would you kind of assess your season so far?

BEN CRANE: Yeah, it's been a big, fat disappointment. I've played just poorly for the most part, but I just keep reminding myself that golfers make about 80 percent of their money in about two or three weeks a year, and so just to hang in there and keep plugging away. Just trying to get my swing back to a little more like 2010 and '11 was when I was really playing well. So I've been studying that and came across a little something with my right foot last week, and it's like, hmm, okay, I'm starting to see some solid shots, so it's been really encouraging.

Q. It's funny how something so small like a right foot could make such a big difference.

BEN CRANE: It's unbelievable. I feel like I was rolling a little too much to the outside of my right foot, so I just felt like I wasn't striking the irons well at all. Now I go from not striking

them well to feeling like I'm really compressing them well and the contact is so much better. I just kept telling my coach, I'm like, when you've got 194 and you hit it 174, it's just really hard to play golf, but if you've got 194 and you're hitting it around 194, like, you've got action. So we made some good strides this week, I'm really pleased.

Q. So we're here with Ben Crane, 68 yesterday, 69 today. Great round of golf today. How you felt today with this beautiful weather? A little windy on the golf course today in Puerto Rico.

BEN CRANE: You know, it's been awesome. This golf course is a fantastic course, great layout, and the wind is up, so makes it very challenging. You've got to control your golf ball, hit little shapes into the wind, and you've got to be able to make some six-, eight-, 10-footers for par because you're going to get out of position in these windy conditions. I was able to do that today and, yeah, I'm thrilled with 7 under par, one back going into the weekend.

Q. Talking about the golf game, what have you capitalized on your golf game these two days that you think is improving that is going to keep moving to tomorrow and towards Sunday?

BEN CRANE: Yeah, drove it a little bit more consistently and I'm driving it a little bit lower, so in these windy conditions I'm hitting more fairways.

But the biggest thing has been my irons. I figured a little something out in my swing last week and so I'm striking the irons better, giving myself more opportunities and I've been able to hit two or three shots very close to get some momentum going, so that's really been the key to some of those crisp iron shots.

Q. Has it been key the Puerto Rican fans love you here in Puerto Rico, the atmosphere's great. How do you see the golf course in the great shape (inaudible). How do you see it in Puerto Rico this weekend?

BEN CRANE: We're incredibly grateful to be here this week. Puerto Rico's done an unbelievable job getting this course ready. Post-storm I know it's been so difficult, you guys have overcome so much just to even have this tournament, so we're blessed and thankful to be here this week. This course is in amazing shape, I didn't expect this. So we couldn't be more thrilled and hopefully we can put on a great show this weekend.