

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
February 22, 2019



MATT KUCHAR (-9)

Q. Off to a very hot start, four birdies. How did you find it today?

MATT KUCHAR: That was a great start, I'm not sure I've ever gone four straight birdies. It was a good way to start it. I played with Tommy Fleetwood, he started eagle-eagle. I started birdie-birdie and was 2 down, so I had some catching up to do. Kept playing consistent golf. I'm pleased with the state of my game at the moment.

Q. And one thing that we found strange, a lot of the top players out there were misreading the putts, they were going either very short or very long. How did you find it? I think it was supposed to be running 11 and a half on the Stimpmeter, but it looked like it changed.

MATT KUCHAR: Just with as much slope as there is and poa annua greens, you don't want to leave yourself four-footers. I felt like a lot of putts were rolling out, and to me I felt, when you stand over a putt, just being a bit defensive. I felt like it's hard to ever find a putt that you're really aggressive with, you're really comfortable with because you certainly don't want to have an uphill putt roll three or four feet by and have a three or four foot downhill putt coming back. For the most part it's just the greens are good, but it always depends.

Q. I know we've got two more days left, but like yourself and Tommy making big progress up the leaderboard, was there any point where you were checking to see how Dustin or Rory were doing today?

MATT KUCHAR: It's too early to check. I certainly -- it's easy to spy on the leaderboards, I kind of saw where I was, but certainly not concerned through 36 holes.

Q. You started with four birdies, but how did it feel after the first two holes when your playing partner goes eagle-eagle?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, I had to laugh at that with Tommy, that was so impressive what he did. Amazing drive on 1 to 15 feet and made his putt, then a chip-in. Wow, I don't know if I've ever seen anybody go eagle-eagle. I felt like I was doing good work going birdie-birdie and I was 2 down through two.

I was pleased to continue it on and squared up our match through four holes. I birdied 3 and 4 to get to 4 under. That's probably one of my best starts on the PGA TOUR as well, four straight birdies.

Q. Obviously you played well so far this season, but is there something about this

golf course that seems to fit your game?

MATT KUCHAR: It feels to me to be a very old-school course. It's a tight driving golf course. If you're off at all, you're in the trees and you feel like you're chipping out or just trying to salvage par. So it really rewards good driving and I've been driving it well. I've had some success at Hilton Head and TPC Sawgrass, both pretty tight, difficult driving courses and feel like I do better when driving is really rewarded.

Q. Of course the altitude is different, but how do you see the people here and Mayakoba?

MATT KUCHAR: Fantastic support at both places. Mayakoba is a bit of a resort area. Here you have a city, and so crowds are just amazing here. That may be some Tiger effect, but amazing crowds here. I was impressed as well at Mayakoba just for a resort area to have such a good turnout. The crowds have been great at both places.

Q. Is this helping you get past the tough week you had last week, playing well to try to get past what happened?

MATT KUCHAR: I don't know if I would say that. I like to play well every week kind of regardless, but it is nice. It is nice to have a good showing, it is nice to kind of be back in the hunt again. Listen, golf is so much more fun when you have a chance to win, and it's been a lot of fun this week just playing some good golf. Having a chance with 36 holes to play is a good place to be.