

CHARLES HOWELL III (-7)

Q. That may have been the best collective group we've ever had led by this man right here, 7 under.

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, thank you. As you saw, it was about as gettable as I think you'll see this place with the greens still soft, not much wind to speak of, but if it firms up, it's going to get interesting.

Q. Before we talk about what might happen, let's talk about what did happen. You made two eagles and two birdies on the par 5s. I didn't even know the 635 one was reachable.

CHARLES HOWELL III: I didn't, either. That fairway must have been pretty firm. If you drive it good, you take advantage of it. If you miss the fairways at all, now the layups and stuff get goofy. But it's the best I've ever played four par 5s in a round of golf in I think ever, including at home. I'm not expecting that to happen again, but it was nice to get it today.

Q. And obviously groups are playing extremely well. How do you feel about the golf course?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, it was great playing with two guys, Rickie and Kiz, who are playing (inaudible,) kind of keeps each other moving along. I didn't know what to expect today. You know, we played the practice rounds in a bit of wind and came out today and it's calm, so obviously you've got to be a bit more aggressive than we thought we had to be. You know, with the slopes in the greens and stuff, it still takes a lot of attention.

Q. Did I read your bio right, you just had a little birthday?

CHARLES HOWELL III: I did, 40, which is unbelievable. I remember when you and I played together many moons ago and it's starting to feel like many moons ago. Yeah, 40, I can't believe it. I feel 100, but yeah, I'm 40.

Q. That's not true, I guarantee it. You'll be playing this game until your 70.

CHARLES HOWELL III: Until my arms fall off, I'm sure, but I think with that 40th birthday coming, it speeds up.

Q. When was the last time you went 6 under on the par 5s in a single round?

CHARLES HOWELL III: I don't think I've ever done it. And I probably won't do it again,

either, so I better have enjoyed today, yes.

Q. What does that do for you just to get a spark going early in the week?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, I haven't played great golf the last couple months, so this event, going to play the next couple as well, so I was looking forward to these. It's also fun playing new golf courses. This being new, next week being new, kind of get excited to learn a new place. And then John Deere's a place I've played quite a lot, which I like. I was looking forward to this stretch. Didn't necessarily see this day coming, but I was excited to be here.

Q. Were you pushed a little bit by Rickie and Kevin?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Oh, for sure. It definitely makes a difference when you have guys ahead of you hitting good shots and knocking putts in and making birdies, for sure. I mean, draft off a guy, so to speak maybe, yeah. And obviously Rickie has a ton of fan support, so there was a lot of people out there, which was nice to see. Yeah, I think it matters when your playing partners are playing good.

Q. Do you think these are the type of scores that we can expect throughout the week?

CHARLES HOWELL III: No, I don't think so, because I think it will firm up. And with these greens and the hole locations, they can make them -- they can make it as difficult as they want. But we've got to remember, this is also new, too, for the rules staff to set the golf course up. There's a lot of unknowns and how fast do the greens dry out, how bouncy do they get, so I think everybody's learning as we go along.

Q. Is there a difficulty coming out with a blank slate to know what's a good score, what's a score you need just to keep pace?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Oh, no doubt it is, sure. You know, playing two practice rounds in the wind and the greens were kind of firm Tuesday afternoon, whatnot, I didn't see this. So yeah. Then again I'm here this morning like holy cow, not much wind and they're soft, you better change your mindset here a bit. Yeah, give guys a few days around here, they'll learn it, but these first few days, I think the weekend's going to firm up, to be quite honest. No rain really in the forecast. I think it can get really interesting.

Q. How aggressive did your attacks have to be on the par 5s today?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, I was fortunate to hit the fairways on them, and if you do, the fairways are playing fast enough where you can reach them.