ROUND 1 INTERVIEW June 27, 2019



KEVIN KISNER (-6)

Q. Great start, lots of birdies, lone bogey, simple recipe. Is that what works around Detroit Golf Club?

KEVIN KISNER: Yeah, seems to be. It fits my eye off the tee, and if you're in the fairway, it's all a second-shot golf course. So as long as you're in that short grass, you can control your golf ball coming in there.

Q. Is the theme "keep it under the hole" going to be running through your head for the next few days?

KEVIN KISNER: Yeah. I expect them to get a little firmer and faster through the weekend, so you're going to definitely be watching where you're leaving that golf ball. We're all trying to learn the golf course, so we'll all see how we go as the week progresses.

Q. Lots of crowds here today, fan support. First time in the Detroit Metropolitan area. Are you having a good time in Detroit so far this week?

KEVIN KISNER: It's lovely. Had a great time downtown, and the golf course is a lot of fun to play. We're missing some of that aspect on the PGA TOUR anymore, so we're enjoying making some birdies once in a while.

Q. Kevin, if we could just get an opening comment on the first round here at the Rocket Mortgage Classic?

KEVIN KISNER: Yeah, we had a lot of fun. Rickie and Charles was a great group and everybody got off to a good start making some birdies. The golf course is in great shape and a lot of fun to play. We can attack it with little to no wind today and guys were just making birdies left and right, so it was fun to keep it rolling.

Q. For rounds like this where it's calm, it's basically turning into a shootout?

KEVIN KISNER: Well, seems like we're getting less and less of that each week on the PGA TOUR, so it's fun to actually go out and play a decent round and have a chance to shoot 5, 6, 7 under. I think the course will start to show its teeth a little more as the week progresses and the greens can always get a little more difficult. So we'll see how it goes, but it's still a lot of fun to play. A lot of short irons and a lot more thought going into how you play it off the tee.

Q. How were the crowds, because this is the first time golfing in Detroit?

KEVIN KISNER: Well, I think -- obviously we already knew it's sold out. To be here at 7:30 in the morning, we already had a huge following on the first tee all the way to the end. It seemed to grow as the day progressed. I think the whole town is taking it in. I'm staying downtown and a lot of excitement about the tournament. In the pro-am yesterday, my pro-am group was all fired up. And people in the downtown area, you know, everybody's excited that we're here, and we're excited to be here.

Q. How pleased were you about the performance on the front? You didn't play the front, did you?

KEVIN KISNER: I had not played the front yet and was able to get off to a pretty decent start there on the front with three birdies. Had a little hiccup there on 6, didn't birdie 7, so I kind of slowed down and stalled a little bit coming in. I know it a little better now, I'll be able to hopefully make some more birdies tomorrow.

Q. When you say show its teeth, what do you think it is about this course that can catch players as this tournament continues?

KEVIN KISNER: Yeah, if the greens can firm up, if we get a good 15-, 20-mile an hour wind and the greens firm up, it's going to be difficult to get your ball where you need to be to make birdie. So if that happens over the course of the next three days, which the PGA TOUR's known to firm and make the greens faster, I think you can see some higher scores throughout the field.

Q. Do you feel like even with the low scores we've seen today, do you feel this is a course that lends itself more to a strategic thinking and --

KEVIN KISNER: Obviously you've got to drive the ball in the fairway to get the ball close on these greens, I noticed that today. I think you still have to be aggressive because you want those short irons in. You can't really lay back and have 6- or 7-irons all day. There were a lot of drivers in our group today and the guys who hit it in the fairway seemed to have really good looks at birdie.

Q. Loudest cheer on 17 when Rickie dumped it basically?

KEVIN KISNER: Yeah, that was crazy. I was up ahead of him and I couldn't tell if the ball flew in the hole or over the green, but obviously with the roar it was straight in. It's always cool to see that and I'm glad all those people around the green were able to witness it.