

CHARLES HOWELL III (-12)

Q. Charles, great start, great position heading into the weekend. What's your takeaway so far through 36?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, the scores are lower than I thought they would be from playing the practice days. You know, the wind picked up a bit today, the greens started to firm up a little bit. So if we get no rain tonight, I think you'll see the balls bouncing on the greens tomorrow, especially in the afternoon. Yeah, I don't think it will quite be as gettable as it was yesterday.

Q. What went well for you out there today?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Patience probably. I mean, by the time I woke up and got out to the golf course, 7 under was in about 20th maybe. Yeah, middle of the round I finally got it going and made some birdies. Yeah, I would say patience, knowing that the guys ahead of us were continuing to make birdies. It puts a different kind of pressure on you.

Q. I don't know quite how to say this, but with some of the bigger names out of it, do you feel like, oh, I've got a really good chance now? Does that go through your mind?

CHARLES HOWELL III: No, because there's 156 big names out here the way I see it. If they're in this field, they're good enough to win the golf tournament.

Q. How's the crowd been? It's the first ever here in our city. We're all pumped.

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, the crowd's been fantastic. I remember the Buick Open in Flint many years ago, the crowd support there was fantastic. It's no surprise. The fans know their golf and it's neat to see. They come out for the guys like Bubba Watson and Rickie, who I played with. A lot of support. It's a really strong turnout and I hope it continues that way.

Q. When you look at how much the course has changed over the last two days and you think about how much it will change over the next two days heading into the weekend --

CHARLES HOWELL III: Barring no rain, I think it's going to change quite a lot. Yeah, the greens will start to get a little bit of that light gray tint to them when the ball's bouncing a bit. Yeah, if we get no rain tonight, I think tomorrow afternoon it will be pretty firm.

Q. You go 65-67. What were your keys today?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, when we woke up this morning it was clear there were some birdies out there the way the guys were going. I think by the time we teed off I was about 20th, so it had our attention, for sure. Fortunately, in the middle of the round I got it going a bit. Yeah, the guys were making them out here.

Q. When you see the low numbers out there, how much does that shift your mindset when you tee it off knowing that you have to make birdies?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, you know you have to take advantage of the gettable holes, the par 5s this week, and you've got to get it in the fairway. There's some strong par 3s you've got to make par on, but after that I think you've got to keep going.

Q. Mike mentioned earlier in the broadcast an 11-year drought between wins. Since getting that victory, what has changed for you?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, it was more of a relief than anything knowing that I can do it, but it was a reminder of how good you have to play. I think this week even shows that. Look at the guys continuing to make birdies. They're what, 14 under playing this golf tournament on these greens? It's a nice kick in the tail to keep working.

Q. Charles, you knew scoring was going to be good today, you followed up a good round with a good second round.

CHARLES HOWELL III: Yeah, waking up this morning and looking at the leaderboard, it was clear they were making some birdies out there. I think about the time we teed off I was around 20th, so yeah, it had our attention, that's for sure.

Q. Where does the patience come from at that point in time? You know the par 5s are gettable, you know this golf course is gettable, but when you see that on the board, how do you approach a round like that?

CHARLES HOWELL III: You know there's holes out there, but the thing with it is you still have to hit nice drives on the gettable holes. If you get the ball in the fairway, you get the par 5s, but if you miss the fairways, then all of a sudden it can become a bit challenging. Yeah, fortunately was kind of able to get it going middle of the round there because that -- those guys this morning ran off with it, for sure.

Q. Certainly some heroics, the two eagles yesterday. Walk me through that bunker shot there at 15.

CHARLES HOWELL III: Yeah, the winds were really blowing there for a couple holes, maybe the edge of that storm, but I did hit a great 8-iron and I kind of missed the wind there. Yeah, I was just trying to find a way to make a three and it went in. I was fortunate the ball was on the upslope. Had it not been on the upslope, I can promise you it wouldn't have

been a two.

Q. We avoided the rain here. Don't know what's going to happen tonight, but game plan or anything you want to tweak at all going into tomorrow?

CHARLES HOWELL III: Well, I mean, barring we don't have any rain, I'm quite sure the greens are going to firm up, so you have to be a bit more aware of that. I hit a couple balls over the green today with wedges, being a bit too aggressive to some back flags. So need to watch that a little bit. No, I'm quite sure the guys ahead of us are going to make plenty of birdies.