

KENT JONES (-3)

Q. Why was it so tough out there? Was it the wind or what?

KENT JONES: I think -- well, first off, obviously the course is just tough, so you start there, right? And then I thought the wind was tricky in the way it was blowing. It was a lot of crosswinds and it seemed like into it was all in and down it didn't seem like it was helping much. It's always the crosswinds I thought made it tricky. Then just the course is just tough.

Q. How about the pin placements, anything out of the ordinary?

KENT JONES: No, I didn't think so. There's a couple that were tough, but, you know, part of that's the course. When they put the pin in a certain spot, you've got to be on the correct side of the fairway or you're sort of blocked out at times. Then you're just playing to the fat of the green. Then I think sometimes you make them tough by where you hit your shot. I didn't notice anything about the pins today.

Q. Nothing diabolical?

KENT JONES: No, I didn't think so.

Q. When it's this bunched up, though, do you come out trying to birdie in the morning or are you just trying to --

KENT JONES: Yeah, I think the guys that come out early are probably trying -- I mean, this afternoon I think just trying to make par, like easy pars. If you can make easy pars, you're cruising. It's hard to make birdies. So just sort of make pars, eliminate the bogeys, hang in there. And then, you know, part of it depends on what the leaders are doing. I guess maybe Retief had a tough day, I don't know.

Q. He did. You weren't aware of that while you were --

KENT JONES: On the seventh hole I saw I think that 5 under was leading, so like wow, I didn't see what's going on now. So then it obviously became bunched up, I guess.

Q. 5 under's still leading.

KENT JONES: Yeah. So then pars are really good, I think. Try to take advantage when you can.

Q. Can you talk about your chip shot on 10 for birdie?

KENT JONES: Yeah. So I've been chipping great all week. It's really been saving me. Not making many bogeys because I've been chipping it close, which helps take stress off as well. I've hit a lot of good chips close and then that one came out perfect and just rolled right in. So it was nice to kind of steal one.

Q. You went through the Champions Tour tour school -- Q-School a couple years ago. How would you describe that, maybe the grind, that you've been able to use that from to use this as a platform?

KENT JONES: Yeah, I think obviously it's not easy to get out here. The Q-School is tough. So I had been working on my game. I come out, did some Monday qualifying out here and sort of played a few events and did well in those events, so that gave me a lot of confidence. Then when I went to the Q-School, you just have to -- you know, you've got to play well for five spots. So I had a good week and got through, then played well last year, so it's been nice.

Q. I know there's still a lot of golf left obviously, but does the link to the PLAYERS Championship, does that have any added significance? The winner of this tournament gets to play in the PLAYERS Championship.

KENT JONES: Oh, absolutely. I think, you know, it's just -- I think it's a big event. And then having it on this course just makes it I think feel like it's that much of a better event. So there's great perks with doing it, yeah, for sure. That's an awesome thing to be able to do that for whoever wins.