

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
July 18, 2019

KRAMER HICKOK (-7)



Q. Talk a little bit about the conditions and what you did well.

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah, we got a lot of rain last night, I don't know how many inches, but the golf course completely changed overnight. It was firm and fast Monday through Wednesday, then everything softened up. So greens and everything were great, conditions were very scorable, low winds and soft greens. So probably see a lot of low scores today, but very happy with the start.

Q. Yeah, it's important to get off to a good start.

KRAMER HICKOK: Absolutely.

Q. Talk a little bit about your first year trying to get into keep your card and get into the Playoffs and stuff.

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah.

Q. You made a decent move today; I mean, in projections.

KRAMER HICKOK: Right. It's been a struggle, to be honest. This whole year I haven't played the golf that I know I'm capable of playing, which is the reason why it's been a little bit frustrating. I put a lot of weight on my shoulders just caring about too many tangible things and outside things that cause me to really stress out a little bit. Just kind of going back to basics and just really focus on playing golf. Just getting out of my own way and just go back to what I used to do as a kid, or what I used to do the last two years, which is just go play golf and have fun. Certainly did that today and I'm going to carry that on the rest of the year.

Q. What kind of things were you stressing out about?

KRAMER HICKOK: Well, just thinking about FedExCup points, thinking about making cuts, what it's going to do for me. Just all those things don't really matter. You're going to play your best golf when you are -- for me at least, when I'm having fun and playing like I would when I was back home with my buddies.

That's the mindset that I'm trying to take going forward. Good golf takes care of itself, it takes care of all those things. There's no point in worrying about all those things, all you've got to do is worry about each shot and smile and laugh a little bit, enjoy it. I mean, we're out here playing golf for a living. It's such a great -- it's been a dream of mine for so long. I kind of lost sight of that, that I'm out here living my dream, so just go have fun with it.

Q. Is there any particular time of the season when you came to it realization?

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah, about last week.

Q. Oh, right now?

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah, exactly. Last Friday, I was just not being myself out there. I'm just like not having fun. I'm like, what am I doing? I would have died to be in this position a couple years ago, and so many other people would die to be where I am right now. I'm taking it for granted and it's -- you've got to have a positive attitude no matter what. That's how I normally play golf and that's how I normally am and I just got back into it.

Q. I also read in your bio that you consider Fred Couples a friend. Have you talked to him about any of this? How did you get to know him?

KRAMER HICKOK: We got to know each other through one of my sponsors is Discovery Land Company and he's a part of some of the golf courses. So I go to Palm Springs in the wintertime and practice and play and he's up there all the time. Just got to know him, got to play golf with him.

And he's really just more of a mentor. So if I have any questions, he's more than happy to lend a hand and help me out with anything. I actually haven't reached out to him in a little while, but if I did, he would be more than happy to do that.

Q. What do you think he would tell you right now? He's like the ultimate relaxed golfer.

KRAMER HICKOK: Exactly. He would probably say, "Go watch some tape of me." His motto and his -- I mean, the way he handles himself on the golf course is exactly how I think everyone should handle themselves. It's just that calm, cool, relaxed, just enjoying everything that there is about the game of golf. It's a game, we're out here having fun. It is our job, but don't let that get you carried away.

Q. So you were there today, or you were at that point today?

KRAMER HICKOK: Yes, absolutely. And that's -- it's not like my game hasn't been -- I've been playing good golf, but I didn't have the score to show for it. A little bit of that is, you know, maybe getting -- making a bogey and just maybe just not handling it very well, a little bit upset about it. Today, just move on. Just be in the moment and have fun with it and enjoy the process. Just don't worry about anything. Just go hit it.