

MACKENZIE HUGHES (-7)

Q. Mackenzie, really nice round of golf today, 7 under. Just had one bogey on the card, and what I really liked about that, you made that one bogey and then came back with four birdies in the next five.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, it was a great round of golf. I felt like I found something nice in my swing a few days ago and it's been getting better the last few days. Yeah, it was a nice round of golf where I feel like I was in control most of the day. I mean, I had one little three-putt there, but other than that, yeah, it was great.

Q. 118 feet worth of putts, so the flat stick was pretty good today.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, I putted nicely. I holed out well from that four- to eight-foot range, and then I made I think two nice putts about 25 feet. Those are the kind of putts you need to make to kind of shoot that low round.

Q. You played here for the first time last year in this tournament, played all four rounds. What did you learn last year that's going to help you this time around?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I think it's one of those courses that you don't have to overpower. A lot of guys will hit driver on a lot of holes, but I lay back a decent bit. A lot of 5-woods off the tee. I'm just trying to put the ball in the fairway. If you put the ball in the fairway out here, you can shoot a score. Playing from that rough, that bermuda rough is so difficult to predict. I think I missed a couple fairways today, but for the most part I did a good job.

Q. Mack, 7 under, excellent start. If we can get some comments on your round.

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, played really nicely. Tee to green was probably one of my nicer rounds of the year in recent memory. Just felt in control, lots of fairways, and other than one small little blip on the 12th hole, it was a really, really nice day.

Q. Mack, how would you assess your season at this point and what's your number coming into this week and sort of what's your objective?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: I think I'm right around 100 in the FedEx. It's been an okay year so far. I've had lots of great results and I've had some results I didn't like. Probably more missed cuts than I would like. I think I've -- you know, I don't know, I've played 23 events and I think I've missed 10 cuts, but my 13 cuts that I made, I've made the most of those. And I had a few chances to win, which I probably wouldn't trade that for more cuts made. I like to have a chance on Sunday being in the mix. So it's been a little bit of an up-and-down

year, but mostly good.

Q. You said you found something earlier this week with your swing?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, just a little feel actually I was doing earlier in the year and it's felt really good so far. Just feel like my swing's in a good spot where I can be aggressive. Yeah, hitting lots of fairways.

Q. Did you find it on your own or with a coach?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: Yeah, kind of on my own, like it's a feel that I've worked on before with my coach, but I just kind of went back to it a few days ago and it's just been a really nice feel for me. It's not something I haven't done before, it's just something I wasn't doing prior to this week. So I just kind of went back to it and it's feeling great.

Q. Can you elaborate at all?

MACKENZIE HUGHES: The feel for me is really just to kind of maintain some connection between my arms and my upper body. So like the drill I do or my little feel is I tuck my sleeves into my armpits a little bit and I try to feel like I'm staying a little more connected. So that's my feel and so far it's felt pretty good.