

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 15, 2019



GRAEME McDOWELL (-5)

Q. Graeme, fine start. Nice little bonus birdie to get lunch started off nicely as well.

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, correct. Nice chip-in on nine there, my last hole of the day. Didn't have a whole lot of luck on the greens, to be honest with you, so it was nice to kind of get a little parity at the end and chip one in.

The golf course stood up unbelievably well considering how much rain we've had this week. They've had to bump a few tee boxes forward to get us past some of the wet landing areas, but like I say, considering the conditions, the golf course is very playable and that's why you're seeing some low scores, because it's playing a little shorter in places. Generally, this is an interesting wind for this course. We don't typically play this course with a north wind, but some of the holes play a little longer and we had some birdie chances on the downwind holes.

Q. Getting some rain is not uncommon here. Getting all the rain that we got is certainly uncommon. Was it an adjustment out there?

GRAEME McDOWELL: The ball is not traveling quite as far as it normally does down here, I believe. It's weird because the greens are remaining reasonably sort of medium firm. They're not as soft as you would expect. There's a lot of top dress on them and they're actually running quite good, so all credit to the staff here for all the hard work they put in the last couple days, because it's so disappointing for a tournament when they prep a golf course and they get the kind of downpours that we've had here. Hopefully, we can slip past this afternoon and we can get some clear skies here for the next few days.

Q. Looking at the history of this golf course, fairways, greens typically are a way to success. You've seen it. I think it's easy to jump and say when it's this wet, it's going to take a long player this type of week. I don't necessarily agree with that, do you?

GRAEME McDOWELL: No, I don't. I think this year especially, the fairways here at Mayakoba are a little bit more narrow than normal. There's slightly more rough and more of a premium off the tee on accuracy because you get ball in hand, clean golf ball and you do get a lot of short irons in your hand around here. So I think it's a guy who can keep it in play off the tee and get really hot with his medium and short irons and make a bunch of birdies out there.

Q. Sounds like someone I'm looking at right now. Keep it going.

GRAEME McDOWELL: I'm feeling I can get around, so I'm excited.