

ZACH JOHNSON (-8)

Q. (In progress) the breeze made it a little more interesting. You're in a good position.

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, I've got a chance going into the final day of 36 holes or 30 holes or whatever we're going to get done. Yeah, that's all you can ask for. I had kind of a little mishap there in the middle of the day or towards the end, but righted the ship and actually gave myself some opportunities at the end. So I feel good, I feel good about what we're trying to do and how we're doing it. El Camaleon, whatever this place is called, had some teeth today, so it was a little more difficult, I thought.

Q. And with the marathon tomorrow and with the winds this afternoon, how important was it to get this one in the house today knowing how much rest you're probably going to need for tomorrow?

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, that's key. I can rest this afternoon. There's an advantage to having the late-early tee time as of right now. Who knows what can happen, but as of right now I think there probably is a small advantage. I can rest, I can watch football, I can recover, I can practice if I desire and get ready for the weekend or for the last 36 holes.

Q. Limited experience here, but it seems like a golf course that should set up really nicely for your eye, especially as wet as it's been this week, keep it in play, keep that ball in hand and try to attack when you can?

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, I think that's exactly right. I think there's a lot of holes where you can attack and there's a lot of holes where, you know, good quality shots get rewarded. The slightest errant shot can really bite you, especially with this wind.

We were going through the course today, my caddie, Brett, and I, and I was talking to some of the guys I was playing with, I mean, it seems like we play some courses that are really good but there's a couple holes where you're like, nah, that one's not very good. I don't know what hole you pick here that's poor. They're all -- there's some pretty basic holes, but they're fine. There's nothing that is glaringly obvious that says this is a bad hole, they're all really good.

Q. Fine praise there. We've been talking a lot during the broadcast about Presidents Cup stuff. Any secret strategy sessions you'd like to talk about this week, anything you can share with us?

ZACH JOHNSON: Sure, I can share a lot. We've had many discussions, many text

messages. It may come to most people's surprise here that we're going to try to put our 12 out there and win more points than the other team and take the Presidents Cup back home.

Q. You did that almost without a smile on your face. Thanks for your time.

Q. How would you assess the round today?

ZACH JOHNSON: I mean, if you look at the scorecard you're going to see one really bright number and not a good hole there. I had a mud ball in the rough and it did not work out in my favor. I mean, only obvious as to what happened there and I was trying to make a bogey at that point, just trying to get a bogey, which is unfortunate because it's a par-5 and you're getting home, too, and one, you're trying -- it's a birdie hole, so that really stings. You know, I kind of righted the ship, hit some good quality shots coming down the stretch, hit some putts that didn't go in, got one back and I got a chance going into the last 36.

Q. You had 17 good holes.

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah.

Q. So what was working well?

ZACH JOHNSON: I got the ball in play, I put the ball in the fairway, I put myself on the green, gave myself a lot of putts and nothing really -- the holes that I hit it close, I capitalized on. The holes that -- you know, I had a lot of 15-, 20-footers, just didn't quite make them today, which is unfortunate, but I made a couple yesterday and so it probably evens out in the end. But didn't chip much and when you don't have to chip much on a course like this when the greens aren't that fast, you can kind of be aggressive and, you know, take advantage of some of those uphill putts.

Q. You're in a pretty good position heading into the weekend. Is it familiar? Is it good to be --

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah. You know, I felt like these days were coming, it was just a matter of time. I'm working hard, doing all the right things. Got a really good strategy with my coaches on how to practice, what to practice, when to practice, all that good stuff. My golf bag's really set right now with PXG. I'm pumped as to what they put in my hands.

It's really just trying to improve. I'm 43, nearly 44, but I don't want to sit here and say I'm trying to get back to where I was, I want to get better, I want to improve. Seeing some of my peers that are my age or even a little bit older play well is certainly motivating, and these young guys are motivating, too. My good buddy T-Dub won in Japan. I mean, that's -- no one's going to sit here and say they're shocked or surprised. I'm not, but it's motivating. I know how he operates from the practice standpoint and from -- just from a perseverance standpoint, and it's inspiring. I don't know what's going to happen, but I just know I've got some good golf in front of me, and if I stay healthy, I think good things can happen.