

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN (-6)

Q. First competitive round around the South Course, eight birdies, 66, pretty good start.

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: I'll take it, especially since I didn't play the back nine on that golf course, I just walked it yesterday because it was so much golf the last week. Then I wasn't feeling well on Monday, just played nine out here, and played North on Tuesday and just walked that back nine yesterday. But it's pretty in front of you, you're pulling driver if it's not a par-3.

But no, I stayed within my zone and committed to the shots you had to hit. I guess I got a little lucky on 15 over the green there and hit a good -- got a really good up-and-down. I thought I was screwed when I saw that ball coming down and fly the green. Yeah, you've got to get a couple bounces your way to shoot a low one out here.

Q. With everything in front of you on this golf course, though, like you suggested, it asks the player to do certain things, it's demanding. You answered that challenge. You must have a lot of confidence now as we head to the North Course tomorrow?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: Yeah, absolutely. I feel like I'm just strong from my confidence from last week. I was hitting driver nicely there and I feel like I hit it somewhat nice today. The fairways are narrow out here and you'll hit good drives that don't go in the fairway and you just have to accept that. The greens are forgiving enough that if you get the line in the rough to get it on the green, you can actually put it on the green, where I'm sure it will be a lot different next summer.

Q. One more thing before we let you go, I got a very close look at your lie on 16 where it just got a little unlucky and kind of leaned against that back collar at the par 3. We were trying to decide if he going to belly a wedge, use a putter, hybrid. Did you consider anything else? Walk us through why the pop putter.

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: We considered a wedge but we were like, I'm going to have to be so steep on it that it's going to come out super low. With how the poa was just on the green there, I was like, it's either going to skip and go six feet by the hole or hit something and it will just stop.

So I was like, if I pop a putter down, it's actually going to bounce it, which is going to make it come through better, taller than if I had a smooth putt. I feel like the rough was going to slow it down if I could put a good putt on it, so we were thinking it was to our advantage to have to pop it a little bit to actually bounce the ball through that rough to get it through a little easier.

Q. What was working so well for you out there today?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: What wasn't working? The putter was still rolling nicely, same kind of focus from last week. I knew this was going to be different this week on the poa greens, especially on the South Course, but they were actually really nice today and they were some -- I saw them true obviously and I didn't have any quirky putts that bounced offline or something like that. It will happen and I know it, because it's poa, but today the putter was working really nicely and I never really put me in a terrible spot where I couldn't make par from.

Q. This is a continuation of what you did last week finishing T-6 in the desert.

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: It is. Same focus points, same swing thoughts, just trying to take that into this week and pick my targets and try to get it on the targets. Out here you just have to hit the fairways and it's very gettable from there.

Q. Did something change from the fall to 2020 where your results weren't maybe as good as you might want them to and now you're coming in here and you put together four good rounds last week and now another one here?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: I definitely feel like the putter is a huge difference because I felt like the game from tee to green wasn't that far off in the fall. I just had way too many rounds with 32, 33 putts and I wasn't making birdie, and it was very easy to see on the scorecard. The putter's definitely been the difference last week and this week so far. Speed is great and I'm seeing the lines and I'm actually hitting the lines and they're staying on those lines.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about the fog? How quickly did it roll in for you when you were out there?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: It hit us like -- I mean, I was kind of seeing it earlier, maybe when we were back on 12, 13 I saw it starting to come in. Then I was like I didn't think much more about it because it didn't really ever hit us, it kind of dissolved as it was hitting the coast. Then I laid up on my second shot there and I looked to my left and there it was, a wall. No, it came quickly, but this place is known for that.

Q. Did you have much experience on the South Course before?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: None, zero, that's about how much.

Q. How many practice rounds did you get in?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: I actually only played nine holes on the South Course and walked the others, so I've seen all the holes. But it's as straightforward as a golf course really can be. The fairways are cut and a ton of rough out there and just have to try to get it

in the fairways. I mean, you can control it on the greens, they're not getting away from us, they're fairly receptive, so it's very doable from the fairway.

Q. Is it almost better not to be afraid of it in some way or have some scar tissue?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: Yeah, I think an easy track if you get into it, start to steer the balls into the fairways, which for me personally I'm trying to stay away from that. Still got to let it go, just let the ball get in the way of the swing and let it take its flight. It's going to get real tricky if you start steering the balls into the fairways and you'll get uncomfortable.

Q. Is there one big thing you're kind of starting to learn this year as a rookie that is starting to kind of feel a little more comfortable out here?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: Yeah, I mean, generally speaking I know the courses coming up, especially on the weekends, it's a lot more about making bogeys instead of trying to make 15 birdies on the weekend, which I guess is a comfort. But also you have tougher courses in front of you, so it's not as easy as it sounds. But I think that's key to stay patient and not necessarily get frustrated if you don't get a couple low rounds in early. If you just keep away from like a high round and some high numbers, then I feel like it's very doable.

Q. How did today set up for tomorrow, (inaudible)?

SEBASTIAN CAPPELEN: I feel like the courses are very similar. There's a couple more quirky holes on the North Course, but the changes that they made, it's a lot longer. It's the same thing, you've got to hit the fairways. The rough is up and it's just thick and juicy, so it's just as challenging if you don't hit the fairways out there.