

CAMERON CHAMP (-3)

JACK RYAN: We'll go ahead and get started here with Cameron Champ at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. Cameron just recorded a 3-under 69 in the first round.

Cameron, just to start, if we can get an opening comment on your round. I see you birdied the last two holes, including a hole-out from the bunker on the last.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, it was definitely a little shaky start, but like I said, it was last minute to be playing. Still struggled with the irons a little bit today, but I was able to get it around and score when I could, take advantage of the few good shots I hit close. Obviously one (inaudible) and then on 9 really I was just trying to make a bogey, a bogey with the lie I had, but the bunkers are soft and it came out extremely well and trickled right in the hole, so I'll take that and move on to tomorrow.

Q. Cameron, good finish today. Can you just kind of run us through the last, I guess, 72 hours since you first got the first test and how everything else evolved from that?

CAMERON CHAMP: Which first test, the positive?

Q. Yes.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah. So obviously Tuesday at Travelers I tested positive. I was asymptomatic, I really felt fine. I was extremely cautious because my fiancée's father has a heart condition so we've been extremely cautious, so for me that was a shocker. Obviously the following days I had to quarantine, and Wednesday Thursday and Friday I tested each day and they were all negative, but then by Saturday afternoon I was able to go home.

Q. And can you just kind of talk about the emotions of not knowing when you were going to be able to play again to getting back into this week?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, definitely it's mixed emotions. I think my agent, Chris Armstrong, he did extremely well with working with the Tour and the Tour did extremely well with working with us just trying to figure out when the best time would be to come back depending on the protocols and how they work. So we were able to work that out. Obviously, like I said, this was a surprise to me. About 4:30 last night we got the call saying, "Do you want to play," and I'm like, "Of course I want to play." So again, I had to rush here today and was able to make it in time to tee it up.

Q. I'm sorry, just one more quick followup. Did you go home after getting the positive test and then you had to rush back to Detroit?

CAMERON CHAMP: So after the positive test, I tested negative three times. So following those three-day tests I was able to leave on Saturday. Since they followed CDC guidelines, it's either a 10-day quarantine or two negative tests back to back.

Q. Just to kind of clarify, where were you when you got the news that you were in the field, and you said it was around 4:30 yesterday?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, I was at home literally sitting on my couch when I got the news from my agent through the PGA TOUR that they were letting me play this week. So kind of had to scramble to figure out even how to get here, and obviously the best way for me was I left about 6:30 this morning, flew in, did my testing, waited for my test, and when those results came in I came to the course and started warming up.

Q. And where were you coming from?

CAMERON CHAMP: Houston.

Q. So about what time did you get to the course? What time did you get to start practicing or warming up?

CAMERON CHAMP: By the time I saw a physio and I registered, I want to say around 12:45, 12:50. So I got roughly about an hour, which was good, that's what I was hoping for. Flew in here as early as I possibly could to do testing.

Q. You had some fun here last year. How big was it for you to get back into this tournament, somewhere where you have at least some positive memories?

CAMERON CHAMP: Oh, yeah, I love this course. It's definitely a finesse-type course. Obviously if you have length it can be an advantage, but at the same time the greens are very slopey and your iron play has to be on as well, as well as putting. I think this is a course where yes, you can shoot very low, but all aspects of the game have to be in the same sequence to do that.

Q. You played with Donnie today, who's a local kid, Monday qualified. He had his struggles, but did you have a chance to chat with him at all and how do you think he held up composure-wise? I know the end result's not something he's going to be thrilled with, but for his first event.

CAMERON CHAMP: He seemed like a great player. Like I said, he hits it very well, does everything well. You definitely can tell maybe he was nervous, maybe he wasn't, but some days that's just how it goes. I'm sure tomorrow he'll play better, but from today, chatting with him, and he definitely is a good player.

Q. Cameron, I noticed you used some hand sanitizer at the turn. Just curious how

often you did that and what was it like to be back out there after your situation?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, I use it as much as I see it out there. Obviously, like I said, being extra precautious knowing the situation I'm in.

And as far as being back, it feels amazing. Like I said, this last week has been a lot of ups and downs, a lot of talking on the phone. Probably the most I've talked on the phone this last week in the last three months combined. It just feels again nice to be back playing, seeing all the guys, playing golf.

Q. I'm just trying to clarify here. Do you believe that you had a false positive test?

CAMERON CHAMP: I mean through the specialist that we worked with, at this point it's clear that I never had it. As far as their medical opinion, it's pretty clear that I never had it, so that's why I'm going about the way I am now. Like I said, still being precautious because if I happen to do get it, then it affects my family deeply. Like I said, with my fiancée's father and a few other family members, if they get it, it can cause serious harm. But yes, at this point, with the specialists we work with, they determined I didn't have it.

Q. How do you feel players received your arrival today?

CAMERON CHAMP: I think everyone was supportive. I think just about everyone knows about my situation and with the Tour players on the board, they're the one that voted it in or were one of the ones that helped vote it in, so I know they all had my back and supported me and knew my situation and knew of again what the protocols are with the CDC, if you have two negative tests -- back to back, then you're clear to go and that was the same with the doctor.

So it was just nice, like I said, not to have people look at me, oh, he has Corona, we have to be careful type deal. The support, it definitely makes it easier to come back. Again, not having people looking at me thinking that I'm contagious or anything.

Q. What do you make of Bryson's chase in terms of his ball speed and distance as he's basically the first player to match some of the numbers that you put up?

CAMERON CHAMP: It's impressive. He's definitely put on the mass. He's obviously proven that and explains how he does it, and obviously more mass, more muscle creates more speed. Definitely some of the ball speeds he's hitting are very amazing. Like I said, to hit 200-mile-per-hour ball speed using a regular length driver, I've only done it once or twice. One time was at the 2017 U.S. Open, I did it one time there just because of how amped I was, but yes, it's very impressive.

JACK RYAN: All right. Thank you, Cameron. We appreciate your time and best of luck the rest of the week.