

CHRIS KIRK (-12)

Q. Another solid round there, Chris. Let's talk about just after the middle of the round where you had a few hole-outs on 11 and 12. Just talk about how that, you know, unexpected hole-outs can build momentum in the round.

CHRIS KIRK: Yeah, absolutely. You know, I ended up in both of those spots from probably being a little bit too aggressive on my approach shots, but that's the mentality I definitely take when I'm playing well, that's when I want to put the pedal down a little bit more and maybe fire at a little bit more pins.

The bunker shot at 11 and that little pitch shot from behind the green on 12 were both pretty straightforward shots, and I hit very good shots, but to see them both go in the middle of the hole obviously takes a lot of luck.

Q. We talked about this yesterday a little bit, the continued good play from your win on the Korn Ferry Tour a few weeks ago. As you said, you become more aggressive as you're playing well. Do you feel that's the mentality you have to take going forward into this weekend knowing that low scores are needed?

CHRIS KIRK: Absolutely. It's going to take 20-something under to win here, I would imagine, so yeah, there's a lot more birdies to be made by whoever's going to do it. I'm just going to go out and same mentality tomorrow as I did today, just try to hit as many good shots as I can and stick to the process.

Q. What can you draw on from those past victories or playing well in the past that can maybe help you this weekend?

CHRIS KIRK: I think just knowing that I've done it before and that, you know, you're obviously not going to pull it off and make the birdie on the last hole to win every single time, but it sure helps knowing that you have, you know. Yeah, there's a lot of really good players at the top of the leaderboard with a lot of good experience as well, so I just want to give myself a shot and see how it ends up.

Q. Over this last year or so, after the struggles you've had and coming out and being so open and honest about everything, what have you learned about yourself as a person, as a golfer?

CHRIS KIRK: A lot, obviously. I would say the real reason why I'm so open and honest about it is it just helps me. I spent a fair amount of time lying to myself and lying to the people that I care about. I just couldn't take it anymore, along with a lot of other things I

couldn't take anymore. So it just feels really good every day to have nothing to hide and feel like I'm kind of an open book and it's just -- it's still such a relief for me to be that way. I love the fact that it's potentially helping other people, but really I'm doing it for me just because it feels good and it helps my sobriety.

Q. Do you feel a little more like free on the golf course now, like there's a little more joy to the game?

CHRIS KIRK: Absolutely, yeah. I think that a few years ago, among other things, golf was definitely wearing on me and I definitely lost the joy of playing and competing. Now, you know, after being away from it and not knowing if I would really play again or not and choosing to come back just because I love to play golf, so that's why I'm here this week. I love to play golf and I love to compete, so it's a lot easier to keep that in the forefront of my mind now.