

MEDIA CALL
18 November 2020



CAMERON SMITH

SHARON SHIN: Just a reminder to the media on this call, please type in your full name and outlet on the chat function and I'll call on you to ask questions.

With that, I would like to welcome in Cameron Smith, who recently finished T-2 at the Masters tournament, became the first player in Masters history with four scores in the 60s.

Cameron, thank you for your time. If we could get some comments about your play last week at the Masters.

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, it was just a really solid week. The short game, scrambling and the putting was probably the best thing about it. Obviously to have all four rounds in the 60s and be the first guy to do that, that was obviously a, I guess like bittersweet in a way. Cool that I did it, but also ashamed that I didn't bring home the green jacket with it, but all in all a very solid week.

SHARON SHIN: And this was the first time the Masters tournament was played in November. How was that experience for you and how was playing that event without any fans?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, it was very different. There's so many holes out there that visually looked different this year, there's so many holes where the patrons shape a hole. Yeah, it was a very weird experience, but a very cool one as well.

SHARON SHIN: Sounds good. We'll open it up for questions.

Q. Congratulations on last week, mate. Just wondering, what did you do in the days afterwards? I did read that you got a message from Warne that you showed a few mates. What did you do to sort of enjoy what you were able to achieve at Augusta?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, we got on the road pretty much straight after the tournament. My girlfriend and I drove down from Augusta to Jacksonville, which is about four hours. We got back about 9:00 and we just had a few mates over. We got the fire going in the back and had a few beers. Nothing too much.

Q. And what is sort of the plans going forward now for you? Where are you sort of looking to get to? And obviously are you able to get home at all or is that just not in the pipeline?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I'd love to come home, I miss my family, my friends very much,

but yeah, I just can't see it happening until the quarantine opens up. I just want to be healthy as well when I come back on the U.S. Tour. I don't want to take any risks that I don't need to.

Q. So your next tournament, is it going to be in Hawaii, is that when you're next going to play? Is that the plan?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I'm actually playing the QBE Shootout with Leish in a few weeks' time. I'll play that and then I'll just hang out here in Jacksonville until Maui.

Q. Just what you did at Augusta, obviously it's a couple of top-5 finishes in certainly a few appearances there. Has it done something to your confidence in terms of what you're able to do now going forward? Is it sort of something where you can use it as sort of a launching pad? You've won a lot before on the PGA TOUR, the Presidents Cup, but when you have a performance like this, does it feel like sort of a launching pad?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I mean it was -- yeah, it does. It was great to be that close, I guess, although I was close but far away in the sense that I still lost by five shots. I still feel like at the beginning of the day I did have a genuine shot, so that was a cool experience in a major to be right up there and giving it a crack on Sunday and still walk away with a pretty decent round.

Q. And just in terms of the fallout just from your fellow Aussies, a lot of messages from those guys as well? You've known them for a while, but do you sort of get a lot of support from them?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, absolutely, yeah. All the guys I grew up playing golf with, they've all sent me a message. Yeah, I mean, the support's been unreal, especially from like the local golf clubs and obviously Queensland and the rest of Australia, the support's been unreal. Yeah, it's kind of cool to see that on that level, what it means to some people. It's kind of nice.

Q. And just lastly, just the fact that you did create that scoring record, has it sunk in a little bit more? No one in over 80 Masters has shot four rounds in the 60s. I know you didn't win, but it's still quite a significant achievement. Has that sunk in as well?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, you know, that's really cool. I honestly had no idea heading into the week that that was even a record to be broken. I just naively thought that it had been doing before, but yeah, it's very cool to be the only bloke ever to do that, that's pretty unreal.

Q. Hey, mate, good job. Did you go fishing yet?

CAMERON SMITH: No, I haven't actually. It's been a bit chilly and a bit windy the last few days, so just kind of in the house.

Q. I was going to ask a wider question. Obviously you did well on Sunday, I was there with you, and 11 of the top-25 are International Team eligible players. Just wanted to get your thoughts on how you guys did obviously in Melbourne, but how you're sort of progressing and hopefully in a couple years' time you guys will be sort of the meat of the team to try to take it to the Yanks again.

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, it's obviously really good to have those guys up there in really big tournaments. It goes to show that we can -- when we put our minds to it, we can do pretty good. That's a good thing to have.

Q. Yeah, I guess every chance you get in those big areas of competition is going to put you in good stead no matter what team they bring out, which is always a very stacked side, right?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, yeah, absolutely. I mean, the U.S. team's always -- they're always going to have a really good team.

Q. Obviously, as we talked about, you won't be playing for a little bit, but you will be able to sort of carry that form forward? Do you have sort of a new goal now? Is it like -- you want to win obviously again this season? Is there a higher goal than that? Do you look at things like the TOUR Championship? What do you set out to achieve from here?

CAMERON SMITH: I don't know really. Obviously the TOUR Championship is always one that's on top of the list I'm sure for everyone on the PGA TOUR. That's up there. I would love to finally crack the top-20 in the world, I still haven't done that. I've been close a few times. Obviously it's fluctuated a lot over the last couple years given some performances, but yeah, that would be a cool one to just crack to say I've been there and hopefully stay there for a very long time.

Q. Just specifically on Augusta, it obviously comes around again in April. Have you set a specific sort of playing path there now? Now you know you can perform there so well, do you sort of adjust how you might lead in and where you might play and what you might do in terms of being at your peak at Augusta in April of next year?

CAMERON SMITH: I've always found it -- ever since I had a schedule where I could, I've always found I like to try and have a week off before those major tournaments just because of how mentally draining they can be some weeks, especially when you're in contention.

No, I don't think I'm going to change my schedule at all. I'm pretty happy with it. There's no point in really changing what works.

Q. You had two weeks before this year's Masters, I think you said you were sort of working so hard to get your game back to where it was. How are you feeling mentally now, because it's been a massive year for everyone with so much going on. How are

you feeling and have you learnt a few lessons about what you can take into 2021 in terms of that sort of the game?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I think I've underestimated I think how important it is to just be -- just do your stuff off the course as well, just be happy with your normal life. Obviously that has a huge effect on how you play and how you perform.

Yeah, it was nice to have those weeks off during quarantine, but obviously been pretty busy since then. So those two weeks off before, just not anything major, just kind of went about my business, just took a good week off the golf clubs, went and hung out with some mates and just got the head right before there. I think that was the really big key.

Q. You mentioned hanging out with the mates. A lot of players talk about the team around them. You've obviously got a team as well, but is there anyone specific you sort of rely on to talk those things through with or do you prefer to hang with your mates and use that as your outlet as opposed to talking to specialists about trying to work out ways to deal with sort of the mental side of the game?

CAMERON SMITH: No, I've got a psychologist, Jonah Oliver is his name. He works in Australia, he's on the Gold Coast. I've worked with him a couple of years. He does a really good job. To be honest, there's not really too much we talk about off the course, it's all about just making my performance better on the course, but if ever I need to vent, I definitely vent to him.

Q. And just a couple of sort of quirky ones. A lot of people obviously watching you at the Masters were reveling in your mullet and mustache. I'm wondering, was that a plan to go with that look or was that a COVID-enforced look, and is it one you're going to track with for a little while to come?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I like it. I didn't cut the hair there for a while through quarantine. Actually saw all the Rugby League boys there with the mullets and all the crazy facial hair, so just kind of followed in their steps. It's kind of 50/50 I guess you could call it. I definitely -- if the whole COVID-19 thing wasn't happening and we played sports throughout, I definitely don't think I would have this haircut.

Q. And your girlfriend clearly is okay with it?

CAMERON SMITH: Oh, I don't know about that. I might wake up in the middle of the night with some scissors through it, I think.

Q. Lastly for me, are you buzzing this morning on the back of what Maroons did last night? I'm not sure if you watched it or if you can watch it over there, but pretty good day for Queenslanders.

CAMERON SMITH: No, I got up early this morning, I watched the whole game. It was on at

10 past 4:00 in the morning. Watched it live and after a couple hours of watching it, I went back into bed and I was just being all chirpy and Jordan said, "Oh, they must have won." I was like, "Yeah, you're right they won." I was just happy for them. Obviously it was a cracking game, but obviously everyone was writing them off and it's kind of cool when Queenslanders have knack case of doing that, so it's good.

SHARON SHIN: Do we have any more questions for Cameron? All right, Cameron, thank you so much for your time and I appreciate you calling in.

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, no worries. Thank you.