

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
January 28, 2021



RYAN PALMER (-6)

Q. How important was it to get off to that start on the South Course given what's in the forecast for tomorrow?

RYAN PALMER: It's huge. My whole goal was to just play a solid round, just shoot something under par, for sure. Knowing how much I like the North Course, but knowing what the weather conditions are going to hold for tomorrow. Solid scores today, a lot of low scores considering the conditions were so perfect today, but it's huge, especially when you're going to have some winds and rain and there's going to be a lot of high numbers tomorrow probably with what the weather's forecasting. So huge to get off to a good round, really good round on the South at 6 under and, you know, tomorrow's a day of survival and then hopefully gear up for the weekend.

Q. What part of your game fits so well on the South Course?

RYAN PALMER: I think my driver. Today I missed three fairways total, and then I'm able to use my iron play, which has been one of my strongest points of my game. When I drive it well here, it sets up these holes for me a lot. I get the putter rolling, I get more confidence. So I love the tee shots, the lines I've got and it's shown these last few years.

Q. Who did you have on the bag today?

RYAN PALMER: Judd Burkett actually today, this week. James came down with COVID last week on his test to come out here, so he's at home. No symptoms. But I know Judd Burkett, we played high school golf together, same golf team. As everybody knows he caddied for Chad Campbell all of Chad's career, and I played a lot of golf with Judd and Chad at home, so Judd knows my game. We have a good time together. He kept me loose and it was obviously a great day.

Q. I know Edmondson's your full time caddie, but there was no problems at all with this guy?

RYAN PALMER: No. It was a matter of me just believing in the shots I wanted to hit. He gave me the right yardage obviously and gave me his thoughts on what kind of shot needed to be hit. There's a few times that he picked -- there's some things I probably would have done differently, but he told me this is what he thought and I agreed and it was the right decision. He knows my game really well from all the time we've played together, obviously it's different not having James there. We've been there for 18 years now, but it was a solid day. I'm confident in the game I'm playing, and I think I can play with anybody right now on the bag, but it's nice having a good friend, Judd, who knows my game as well. Yeah, it's working great.