

MICHAEL THOMPSON (-6)

Q. Michael, good playing, 6-under 64. What was the key to the round for you today?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It really was just hitting my lines. Wherever I was aiming, I was hitting my targets from the driver all the way through the irons. I had two really bad swings -- on 18, the tee shot, and then the tee shot on 4 -- but I didn't let that really get to me. I made two birdies immediately following the bogey on 18 and I made an eagle immediately following the bogey on 4. All in all, a really good day. Gave myself lots of chances, felt like I was putting well. The greens are perfect so it's hard not to see the line out there. Yeah, just overall great day.

Q. What's going to be the key to keeping that going tomorrow?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Staying patient. One of my techniques that I use is I try to tell myself there's always another hole, there's always another round so I don't get worked up in trying to pull off the shot in the moment when I feel nervous. When I feel like I have lots of holes to gain shots back, then I seem to calm down a little bit and I'm able to focus on my process and go through my routine better. So that's what I'm going to tell myself all week.

And like I said just a minute ago, try to give myself an opportunity coming down 18 on Sunday where I don't have to worry about where I am so that I get into the FedExCup Playoffs. That's kind of going to be my mindset going forward.

Q. I was going to ask you about the FedExCup. At 128, you put yourself in a good position after the first round. How do you keep it out of your mind?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's really hard. If I were to say that I'm not thinking about it, I'd be lying. I think it's nice that I have a multi-year exemption to rely on; however, getting into the FedExCup Playoffs guarantees me into THE PLAYERS Championship next year, so that's essentially what I'm playing for. I feel like I'm actually hitting the ball well enough that I can give myself a chance to win this tournament, too. As long as I stay positive, stay hydrated, keep my energy levels up and just continue to believe, I think I'm going to have a good opportunity come Sunday.