

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

MATTHEW WOLFF (-10)



Q. Ten-under 61 for Matthew Wolff. What was it like being in that type of zone?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, as soon as I finished the round, my caddie said to me, he goes, "You know, I've been caddying for you for quite a few rounds and that was not the one that I thought was going to be the lowest."

It was very steady, birdies kind of came evenly throughout the round, didn't really make any mistakes. I think my game plan coming into the week was just really keeping the ball in play off the tee. I feel like when you start taking clubs that you're trying to push it up or, you know, get a little farther up there, that's when stuff narrows in. I think the main thing about how you play well out here is just being comfortable. Every single shot I was comfortable over, I was committed to. Yeah, just ended up that, at the end of the day, last putt dropped. I didn't know it was a course record, it's really cool to hear.

Q. Can you pinpoint when you had it? Was it warmup? On the course? When would you say?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I think it was -- I think it was probably during warmup. I've just been working with my coach a little bit, George, about just kind of setup; really nothing about the swing, just making sure that I'm comfortable in my setup. To me, I feel like when I am comfortable, that's when I make the best swings. So, for me, I just pick the club that I feel most comfortable with and focus on the setup, just keeping the knees a little bent and not standing so on top of the ball and everything kind of clicked today.

Q. You were runner-up your last start in Vegas at Shriners. It's been a few weeks since we've seen you.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, just gave me a little bit of rest. We travel so much out here, not sleeping in your own bed is a big thing and being able to work on your game. If you have one week in between tournaments, it's kind of hard to adjust stuff because you feel like you're just getting on a plane and going to play in a tournament really quickly, where three weeks off, you definitely have some time to work on a few things and just really get rested and get your body in the right mode to get started again. So I was really happy with my time that I had at home, but really excited to be out here and happy I played well.

Q. Ten under, do you feel like you played as well as you scored? That's a hell of a score out there.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I feel like I really did. The putts definitely dropped and I had a

lot of short makeable putts that I think when you shoot 10 under, you kind of have to make all them and those are the ones that I did make. I was hitting the ball really good all day and, like I said, I was just comfortable out there with my setup. When I was over every shot, I was committed and confident in the club that I had and I really just stuck to my game plan. I only hit one driver all day and that was on 13. Even 7 and even 5, both par 5s on the front, I hit 3-wood on and just really felt like that's what fit the hole best for me. I feel like out here the biggest thing is just keeping the ball in play, and at the end of the day that's exactly what I did, so I was really pleased with it.

Q. Does it give you some confidence to shoot a score like that on a course that isn't just rip dog everywhere?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Absolutely, yeah. I've talked about it with my team a lot and my caddie and obviously George, my coach. You know, it's obviously nice being able to rip dog because it's a big advantage. I can carry some stuff that most people can't, so obviously I love courses that I can hit driver on, but I think along with me, every other player out here, when we're playing good, I mean, it doesn't matter if a course doesn't suit you well, we're all so good out here that on any given day, if it's Torrey Pines or a course like this and you're only taking one driver, when you're on, you're on and stuff was just kind of going right for me and I felt really good.

Q. I'm curious, did you watch the Ryder Cup?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I watched a little bit of it, not too much. I don't usually watch the first part of the Ryder Cup and then it wasn't really a close contest after, so I was like there's no point in watching it. But I did watch a little bit of it, probably I think Friday.

Q. Motivating at all?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I mean, absolutely, I think it's motivating, but I don't think that I took more motivation from that than I do from any other thing that I have out here. I mean, I play out here every single week, not every week, but every tournament I play is on the PGA TOUR. You know, when I feel good about my game and I see guys beating me by a lot, that's motivation enough.

I feel like I've definitely gone through some stuff in the last six or seven months, but to be able to come out of it, have a really good attitude and, you know, everything did go right today, but even on the second hole I think I landed it a few feet from the hole and it ripped off the green. Or on 11, my second hole. I think just my attitude about making good swings and that's all I can really control, it's definitely helped me out a lot and probably a good reason why I'm playing so well right now.

Q. Opened with 62 here, is Matt Wolff back?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I don't want to say that. I'm really confident in my game right now and

I've proven over time when stuff goes well and I am confident I can kind of carry it over. So right now my swing feels really good, my head's in a good spot and I'm just happy to be out here regardless of the result. I'm just, you know, like I said, I'm just happy. I'm blessed to be out here. And it's not easy and there's a lot of up and downs, but you've just kind of got to go with it and that's something I'm learning as I'm getting older and being out here longer.

Q. Matthew, what a nicely played round of golf, 10 birdies, no bogeys. I love the symmetry of it, you're out in 5 under, you're home in 5 under for 10-under 61. Well done.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, thank you. It was a very even, steady round. First couple days getting here I was just getting used to the course. Obviously I like hitting driver and stuff, so it didn't set up perfectly for me, but I'm really good with my 2-iron and 3-wood and I felt like I just trusted those all day, kept the ball in play and gave myself a lot of good looks, and putts were going in today.

Q. Eleven of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens, you start the day on the inward nine at 10. I was saying I always think that's hard, a 200-yard par-3 to begin the day, you make a deuce on it to set the tone early.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I was actually telling my caddie, Nick, I'm the same way, I'm not a big fan of starting on par 3s when it either comes to 1 or 10, but hit a really good shot in there and then got off to a good start. I felt like all day I was just really steady and made sure to kind of like stick to the game plan, and I think the biggest thing out here is just being comfortable. As soon as you start taking clubs that you're not comfortable with, that's when it starts getting a little errant and you can get in trouble. It was a good game plan and happy with the round I played.

Q. Did you hit many drivers? I was curious. You hit 3-wood off of 7 and laid up with the second, just wanted to take that cenote out of play?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I just -- for me, if I hit driver good, I can get into that cave bunker. So I only hit one driver today, on 13 or -- yeah, 13, the par 5. I hit the fairway with it, so I'm 1-1 with driver.

Q. And what I like, it's easy to smile with 10 birdies, but your attitude is so much better than we saw you with a year ago.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Thank you.

Q. It's good to see you smiling. A 61 will keep a smile on your face all week. Well done.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Appreciate it.