

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
December 2, 2021



DANIEL BERGER (-6)

Q. Daniel, just your overall thoughts on the round?

DANIEL BERGER: I thought the course was in unbelievable shape. The greens have slowly gotten better and better as the week has gone on. I mean, if you hit the putt where you're looking, there's a good chance they're going to go in.

Q. What have you done since your last round of golf, which was the Ryder Cup --

DANIEL BERGER: Yeah.

Q. -- to this week and when did you start practicing?

DANIEL BERGER: We were talking about that earlier. I took a little over a month completely off for golf, didn't touch a golf club and slowly start ramping it up, and the last two or three weeks I've been playing more golf here and there, and the last 10 days I played every day and I've been playing really nicely. And it's just tough when you haven't played competitively to kind of get back in the rhythm of things, but obviously I got off to a good start and that made it easier.

Q. Are you surprised that you posted 66?

DANIEL BERGER: I've been playing well, like I said, so not surprised, but obviously four birdies in the first four holes helps with the confidence.

Q. Can I ask, eavesdropping on some of your interviews earlier, but how good of a tennis player are you?

DANIEL BERGER: I'm not an amazing tennis player, but I can hit. The first couple weeks that I took off I started hitting with my dad and my cardio was very, very poor. As I started playing more and more I got into it. My dad gives me a few tips here and there and it really helped my game. I've gotten better in the last month.

Q. Is that one of the longest breaks you've had for some time?

DANIEL BERGER: It is, yeah. It's probably the longest break I've had in my professional career. It was a little scary taking over a month off because I haven't done that in a while, wondering if you're going to come back and still have it. But mentally and physically I needed the break. I just wasn't ready to play.

Q. Daniel, how much concern was there that you hadn't played in the fall where everybody's saying, hey, you've got to play in the fall, get the FedExCup points in the fall? Was there any concern about that?

DANIEL BERGER: I think you have to listen to your body and you have to listen to how you feel mentally. The Ryder Cup was grueling and it took so much out of me physically and emotionally that I just didn't feel I could go to a golf tournament to prepare the way I wanted to to the best of my ability, so for me it was the only decision to make.

Q. How would you assess the season that you had last season?

DANIEL BERGER: You know, it was a solid season. I played the best I've played in the majors. Didn't play great at Augusta, didn't play that great at the PGA, but Open Championship and U.S. Open I had a couple top 10s and that for me was big to build some momentum and know that I'm capable of playing the best golf on the biggest stages, and I feel like I've got a great game plan going into next year.

Q. After a month off, what's the part of your game that you thought might be rusty?

DANIEL BERGER: Everything, everything. It took a while to get back into it. I hit the ball really bad for the first two weeks and slowly started to get back into. Saw my coach, he flew down and things started to ramp up pretty quickly and I kind of dialed it in from there.

Q. I saw at the putting green on Monday and I just said hello, and you said, "I'm so tired." Why were you so tired after a one-month break? Was that the kind of practice that you did before coming over here?

DANIEL BERGER: I think it's just mentally putting 100 percent into all the reps that you're doing is exhausting and then I haven't walked in a month and a half so I had to walk a few holes. And then the pro-am, I hadn't walked in, like I said, over a month and a half and that was the hardest part today was just putting one foot in front of the other and getting to the shot.