

MODERATOR: How would you characterize the round out there? Very solid start for you guys.

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, I think we did all the right things. Corey drove the ball fantastic. I just had to -- the hardest thing I had to do was try to keep in my rhythm when I followed him down the fairway, he drove it so well. It's always important just to get two looks the best you can. I just felt like we ham-and-egged well. I had some nice wedge shots, I putted well early. Corey putted fantastic on the back. Scramble format's about making putts. You can play really well out there and make it to 10 feet all day and miss a bunch of them and it can be frustrating, but we seemed to kind of have good momentum. Like I said, holed some putts at the right times and Corey's putter really got hot there the last five or six holes, which was lovely.

Q. When you have a partner like Graeme who obviously putts the ball well, does it kind of take some pressure off you a little bit, you can go a little more aggressive at times?

COREY CONNERS: I try not to change too much my strategy on each shot from what I normally do, but it definitely provides an extra level of comfort knowing that I've got him backing me up. He obviously is a great player, great putter and he bailed me out when needed today, so we teamed up really well.

Q. Have you guys ever played together before this week?

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, we've played together several times I feel like, and I was looking forward to the partnership because I know how solid a ball-striker Corey is. In this format, it's -- this golf course, it's very gettable if you're in the right positions, but if you get off the beaten track around here it can find you out as well.

He's had an impressive couple seasons. New father, which he obviously hasn't played much the last few months, but his game looks awfully sharp considering.

We're looking forward to hopefully continue to kick on into the weekend. This format you can never really put any daylight between you and the field, there's always a low, low number. Tomorrow's an important day with the toughest format coming up. I just like the way we both hit the ball today, we both covered each other well and looking forward to it tomorrow.

Q. You spoke to that, Corey, how do you feel like you guys are going to kind of come

up with a formula for the modified alternate shot on Saturday?

COREY CONNERS: I mean, no real secrets to it, kind of do what we did today, try and get two balls down the fairway and try and just play our games. Can't really try and force things. You can't play scared or play conservative, you've got to still try and make some birdies. You know guys are going to shoot some low numbers with the golf course being fairly receptive and gettable. Focus on getting two balls down the fairway and whoever hits the iron shot, see if we can knock it in there close and make a putt.

GRAEME McDOWELL: We both feel like we're rolling it well, so regards who hits the iron shots, it seems like it doesn't really matter too much. I'm seeing them well, he's seeing them well and I think that's the important part.