

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
January 25, 2022

ZECHENG DOU (-15)



Q. Marty, big round with a 66 today and going to probably have the solo lead, so what were the highlights of the round today and maybe some of the big moments?

ZECHENG DOU: I played really consistent on the front nine, shot 5 under. I think everything came from that. Back nine was just a really random back nine, made a couple long putts and had a three-putt, had a bad chip, was just plain going because I was so confident and then really comfortable heading to the back nine with like the 5 under.

And the front nine, everything was 10 feet, making a putt, made a couple 20-footers, not nothing really came out bad on the front. Overall, it was just a really solid front nine and a really consistent back nine.

Q. You made a long one at the last, I think?

ZECHENG DOU: Yes, yes, made a long one there. One there on 15 I think. Yeah, 15.

Q. What's it been like for you maybe over the last few months coming off pinnacle last year, how you were basically a shot away from going back to the Tour. Have you thought about that a whole lot? Have you been past that by now?

ZECHENG DOU: Because a lot of it has been going on since that Pinnacle tournament, and then there's a lot of China things were happening as well. Went back during the season and took like four weeks out with the jetlag coming back and all that going around. Also like they wanted me back during the Finals as well, which I chose to play out here. Actually cut that part, we don't want to put that in. Just had a lot of things going on.

Took a really good four months off, that changed my whole mindset up. I forgot about last year, how I finished and I'm missing my Tour card or anything. Coming out here it's a new year for me. Glad to have my girlfriend here for these two weeks, it's really been enjoying. I've been coming here alone like the past three years. It's just one of those islands that's good for a family to travel with you. It's been just feeling really good for me these couple weeks.

Q. What's the biggest thing you're expecting tomorrow? You've been in this situation before.

ZECHENG DOU: Yep.

Q. What is the biggest thing that you're expecting out of yourself?

ZECHENG DOU: I think it's a really long season and this is only the second week. Even though if I do play really good, win the tournament or anything, like that year I won the first event and missed my Tour card. I just feel like it's just a normal event. I don't feel anything like looking for a really good start or having something secured already. Like I'm not thinking about that, like meaning by I'm not going to be focusing on winning, I just want to enjoy and play my own golf like I've been doing the last three days.

Q. Now that you're a little more removed from it, do you look back on like 2017 when you came out here and graduated your first year as kind of like a crazy year? I guess what do you think about that now that it's five years ago?

ZECHENG DOU: Like time flies, that's all I can say. I won't look at any scores or any swings or shots I do back then, but I do see that the time just goes so fast. Like it's been five years since I got here and it makes me motivated that I want to move up instead of like sticking around. Like always gives you motivation thinking that you did it back in 2017, you could do it better right now because maybe you must be improving or you're losing it, like that's how I feel. It does, it feels good actually. It feels good.