

AARON RAI ( -13)

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**Q. Aaron, another great round of golf, that's back-to-back 68s on the South course. The scores look identical, but I'm sure the rounds weren't identical, were they?**

**AARON RAI:** No, definitely not. To be honest, we've been quite fortunate with conditions over the last couple of days. It's been pretty warm, haven't had too much wind, but I think regardless of the conditions it's a tough course. I think anything under par or a couple under par's a pretty decent score out there, so yeah, pleased with how the last couple days have been.

**Q. You played very well in the fall portion of the schedule, I bet you didn't want the fall to end, you had three straight top-20s. Did it take a little bit to get started? Missed a cut, performed well last week and now looks like you're really going.**

**AARON RAI:** Yeah, it was nice to have some good finishes at the end of last season. It definitely feels a little bit different out on the PGA TOUR and I think it will take an adjustment period, and it has been and will continue to do so for sure. But as you said, it's nice, I had a good couple rounds last week, didn't finish off that great, but it's been nice to put three rounds together this week so far. Definitely positives.

**Q. Will you draw on that experience, those performances back in the fall for tomorrow?**

**AARON RAI:** Yeah, most definitely. It's nice, it's always nice to have the validation through results to know that you can compete and your game is good enough. Although it's a different week, it's a different course, it's a completely different test and there will be different emotions that are out there tomorrow, but certainly good experience and positive memories to draw on for sure.

**Q. When you've won in Europe, what have you done, what have you learned from that experience that maybe you could sort of keep in here or keep in here for when it gets a little tight tomorrow and you're playing in the smoke as it were?**

**AARON RAI:** Yeah, it's a great question. I think the first thing I've learned is that I think each experience sometimes feels quite different. Although sometimes I've felt very much in control of my emotions and my thoughts, there are also times when I've been in that situation and when I haven't and I think those mistakes are certainly good things because it helps me to be aware of certain triggers or certain things I might be thinking of which I probably shouldn't be thinking of. So I think staying quite positive, staying as calm as possible, staying as level as possible even though there's always bound to be highs and

lows in emotions in a round of golf, but I think staying patient and being very aware of my thoughts as much as possible will be a very important thing to draw on, which I have done in the past. So as I said, each round is different, each situation is slightly different so we'll see how it goes tomorrow.

**Q. And I think you got your card partly because you had a really good finish in Boise, is that correct?**

**AARON RAI:** Yes.

**Q. It was somewhat bittersweet because you were in the mix to win. What did you learn from that particular experience in Boise, Idaho?**

**AARON RAI:** Yeah, it was a very strange finish and very polarized emotions at the end of it. Unfortunately I made a double bogey on the last hole to lose by a shot.

What I learned from the experience, I learned that I can still handle myself in a slightly different situation playing over here in the States and being up there for pretty much the whole of that last round, which was nice, again, slightly new experience for me. I probably made a couple of slight errors in decision-making on the last hole there which were negative at the time, but definitely things that are in my awareness going forwards if I'm in situations like that. So again, positive and negative experience, but certainly learning on both sides.

**Q. Safe to say based on your past and having won at a place like Scottish Open the week before the British Open with the number of major champions that are right around you on the leaderboard that you're not going to be intimidated tomorrow?**

**AARON RAI:** We'll see how it goes. I performed very nicely the whole week during the Scottish Open and it's been good that I've had these different experiences through competing on the PGA TOUR, competing in WGCs, competing in big events over in Europe where I have played against a lot of high profile names. So it is nice to have that behind me to have a little more comfortability and assurance that I've been able to compete in those situations. With events like the Scottish, I think to win any tournament on any Tour let alone an event like the Scottish Open, I think I had to dig pretty deep and had to be very switched on and very aware of my emotions, and I think those things hopefully will stand me in good stead in the future, maybe tomorrow and also rounds that go beyond tomorrow.

But I think, as I said before, each situation is different and sometimes it's about how you deal with it on the fly in those 45 seconds that we have around a shot. That's something that can be very hard to prepare for at times, so although I've had a lot of good experience, we'll see how things go tomorrow.

**Q. I have to know, I'm a Boise native, how was your experience in the great state of Idaho?**

**AARON RAI:** It was awesome, it was awesome. I really enjoyed it. I had a good friend of mine out that week that caddied for me and we really enjoyed the place. Lovely vibe, great people, great event as well, great atmosphere every single day all the way from Monday through to Sunday. Yeah, probably one of my favorite spots in America, to be honest, so far.