## ROUND 1 INTERVIEW May 5, 2022

### AARON RAI (-5)



### Q. Aaron, how would you characterize the round out there today?

**AARON RAI:** It's a very good start overall. Played very nicely, drove it well, hit some very good iron shots, made a good couple of up-and-downs at pretty important moments during the round. Everything moved along quite nicely, game felt solid and yeah, enjoyed playing the course. It's a great test this week.

# Q. What's been kind of trending in your game recently that kind of led to some of these great rounds and good finishes?

**AARON RAI:** I actually went back to the U.K. to see my dad and my coaches towards the back end of March. I was struggling a little bit with my swing in the full game and that's really picked up over the last few weeks. That's probably the biggest difference. I feel a little bit more comfortable shaping the ball both ways. My ball flight's generally a little bit better and under more control, so that's helped to free me up mentally and it's also created a few more chances. Yeah, it's kind of seeped into the scores over the last few weeks, which has been nice.

Q. You've certainly played a lot of events here in your rookie year on the PGA Tour. It's interesting that you found time to get home. Do you feel comfortable out here as a rookie on the Tour? Your results have certainly shown some promise.

**AARON RAI:** That's a great question. Yeah, I'm definitely starting to feel more comfortable. It is a pretty big change because whenever I have one week between tournaments, it's too much for me to travel back to the U.K. and come back to the States, so staying away from home, staying in hotel rooms week on week and being on a different continent, it definitely comes with its own challenges. But the more I've been doing it over the last few months, the more comfortable that I've got with it.

And again, golf course setups are slightly different out here, so there's definitely an adjustment period with that and I've still got so much to learn, but I definitely feel like it's progressing in the right direction, for sure.

#### Q. Do you even have a place to live in the U.S. or are you just week to week?

**AARON RAI:** Just week to week at the moment. I spend a lot of time in Jacksonville during my off weeks away from tournaments, but that's just dropping in and out of Airbnbs and hotels at the moment.