

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 13, 2022

DAVID McKENZIE



Q. What were the differences today from yesterday for you?

DAVID McKENZIE: Just I made some putts. I've been playing pretty well for the last couple months and feeling like I've got really nothing to work on. Like I feel like I'm putting OK and chipping OK and hitting OK, but just always hitting one or two bad shot so that hurts your confidence. Today after a poor start and hitting the bunker in the first and made bogey and all of a sudden I started hitting some shots, got a couple good breaks and then got on a roll and made five birdies in a row.

Had a good chance for eagle on 18 and missed and then backed it up around the front side and played nicely. There wasn't much difference, there never really is. A couple shots that instead of them going to six feet and you miss it, they went to two feet and you can't miss them. That was all it was. Yesterday I found the greens bumpier than today, I don't know if because I was third group out they were better today. Maybe, I don't know what it was, but I made more putts today. They seemed smoother.

Q. I looked you up a little bit and for this tour, right, you have one top-10 all year long I think on the Champions?

DAVID McKENZIE: Yeah, it's been a tough year this year. What happened was late last year I skipped the last event of the year. My brother was going through the final stages of cancer. He called me up in September and said -- well, he said he's going into palliative care and I said to his wife, call me when I need to get home.

Australia at that point still had restrictions, I couldn't even get a flight to get home, on top of the two weeks quarantine. So I ended up staying. As it turned out, they gave me a call and I missed the last tournament I was eligible for. That put me back in the pecking order on the Schwab Cup points list. So correspondingly, I haven't necessarily wanted to be over here, but I've missed a lot of tournaments just by being first or second alternate that may have made the difference by playing that last event last year. So correspondingly, I have not had -- it's been seldom that I've two tournaments or two weeks where I've had two tournaments in a row, so it's hard to get on a run. And then you have weeks off and then you don't want to play or I'm sitting around here on a Wednesday or Thursday all day waiting as an alternate to get in. You can't leave the course, you've got to be there, but you're not playing a round of golf.

Q. You said you had been playing well recently though. Did this feel like a week that maybe you could turn it around?

DAVID McKENZIE: Yesterday I felt like -- I shot 1 over yesterday, but felt like I played much better. Missed, I don't know, maybe a handful of putts that were inside of definitely eight feet that I missed four or five of those. All of a sudden I shoot over par, get off to a bad start today.

Then Mark O'Meara, I played with him one day last week in Calgary, it was just great having a chat with him. Just hang in there, just do what you know what you've done before and don't worry about the rest of it too much.

Q. And you've got the low round of the tournament.

DAVID McKENZIE: So far.

Q. You and Mr. Sauers, because he did it, too.

DAVID McKENZIE: There you go. Yeah, so I was just trying to play like I was far enough back when you're 1 over and the leaders start at 5, you get six shots. All I was trying to do was just hit as many good shots as I could and hit your putts. If they go in, they go in, if they don't, they don't. Yesterday they didn't go in and today they did.

Q. You feel like you set yourself up, though? You're two shots of the lead right now.

DAVID McKENZIE: Yeah, look, but you never know. It's the way golf is. One day you're the champion, the next day you're the chump.