

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 26, 2022

WOODY AUSTIN (-6)



Q. Woody, off to a great start, birdies on three of your first four holes and a nice birdie here to finish the round. Just a few comments about today.

WOODY AUSTIN: Best putting round in many a year, that's the difference. That's the first round this year where I shot a score that I probably didn't play to or deserve. I've been playing well and scoring the highest I could possibly score every day and today's the first time I've made enough putts and whatever to feel like I got away with something. So it was nice to finally make -- and I made a putt on the very first hole, so it got me off to a good frame of mind thinking maybe I could make a few. Stumbled a little bit in the middle of the back nine, but then hit a really good shot on that last hole to hit it five feet.

Q. You've had a good run here, top-10s in three of four previous starts including runner-up, I think, in 2019. Course suits your game obviously?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, well, I won here my rookie year on the regular tour. I just like old golf courses, I like tree-lined, old golf courses where you've got to drive it straight, got to maneuver the ball a little bit. Kind of keeps me, you know, in my frame of mind and the way I like to play golf because I like to work it both ways, I like to hit different shots and this is the kind of golf course you have to do that. You can overpower it a little bit. The trees, you can hit it over -- bombers can hit it over some of the trees or whatever, but for guys like me it's more of a shaping golf course, so it always fits my eye.

Q. It seemed like today a lot of the guys, the issue was putting. For the fans who don't know, how important is that aspect? Some of them just think you knock the ball in the cup and you're good to go.

WOODY AUSTIN: I mean, it's proven, it's the end-all, be-all. Putting is absolutely the most important thing in the game. You could play the way I have for the last three months and get nothing out of it. You can have -- you need days like today where the ball goes in the hole to make you feel like things are going to change and I've been waiting for a long time to feel like things are going to change.

To me, no matter how good you hit it, you can't shoot a good score if you don't make putts, that's just the way it is. Anybody who tells you otherwise I think is probably a great putter so they don't think it's that important, but for those of us who are average at best, it's the most important thing bar none.

Q. Crowds are going to get bigger as the weekend moves along. How did you like the crowd and how did you --

WOODY AUSTIN: It's always great to be here. Flint was always a great one even on the regular tour and now that we're back they still come out. This is one of the higher volume tournaments that we have. People come out even on Friday. I know it will be even bigger on the weekends. It's so nice because there are some tournaments we play, you almost feel like you're just kind of out there on a weekend stroll with your boys or your family, so it's nice.