

SAM RYDER (-13)

Q. Six under today, front nine highlighted with seven birdies. Talk about your second round.

SAM RYDER: Yeah, it was a lot like yesterday. I came out and just didn't really miss much on the front, was playing really solid, driving it well, making some putts is always nice, had one chip-in, pretty simple.

Then kind of just got a little loose on the back and this place kind of, with a little bit more wind, it can be a little bit nervier off the tee. So I think I just, I kind of got a little out of sync there, but I managed it pretty well.

And it was kind of the tale of two nines for me, but all in all, I'm pretty happy with the way I got it around and just going to kind of continue to keep doing what I'm doing.

Q. Any birdies in particular stick out for the day?

SAM RYDER: I always like birdieing the first hole. I feel like the majority of my good rounds, and I mean we're teeing off at 7:15 a.m. directly into the sun, so it was kind of a little awkward tee ball, you can't see it at all. So hitting it into the sun and then I had like a probably 35- or 40-footer, I don't even know what it was, but rolled it in. Especially after playing a good day or playing a good round yesterday, it's just really nice to get off to a good start. You just want to continue to keep that momentum, especially like when you're sleeping on it and you don't really know what to expect.

Q. Conditions, obviously it's dried up. What were you able to take advantage of? You mentioned that wind maybe picked up a little bit more on certain holes?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, I think when I've driven it well and put myself in position, I've been able to be pretty aggressive with my irons. We've been playing the ball up, so it's really about hitting it in the fairway and, you know, controlling it, controlling the distance into the greens.

Q. After going on such a heater on the front nine, where were you at kind of mentally? Did you think this is potentially something special or were you just trying to stay the course for lack of a better --

SAM RYDER: Yeah, I think I'm definitely trying to just stay the course, but it's impossible to not know that, OK, I've got five shots on the field right now or, you know, it creeps in. And I haven't been, I haven't won out here and I haven't put myself in position enough recently. I

think I've actually had some really good opening rounds, whether it was in Vegas or in Japan, starting tournaments and kind of lulling around Saturday or Sunday.

So just continue -- I know my game's right there and I just want to continue to try and bring that same level of focus and confidence that I have on the first tee when I'm going out there and the rhythm that I have from the range and just try and maintain that for the duration.

Q. That was kind of going to be my next question about the next two days. I would assume the plan is just to keep going, keep doing what you've been doing?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, I think the most important thing, and I was talking to my caddie, too, is just being aggressive. I'm swinging it well and I'm rolling it well. I feel if I get on the greens, the hole looks fairly large, which it doesn't always. Being aggressive, like you don't get to 13 or 14 under without attacking. I think once you start a place like this, the wind starts blowing, once you start kind of guiding it around and steering it out there, that's when you start to get in trouble. So for me, I'm playing smart, I'm not playing reckless, but I just want to be aggressive and continue to try and make birdies.

Q. Any changes to your club setup or bag or anything like that over the last couple weeks or have you just been --

SAM RYDER: Nothing's changed. I went back to a putter, but it's similar. You know, it's an Odyssey that's very similar. Nothing's -- I don't really like to tinker too much. I'm pretty happy with everything I've got going. I'm not, you know, looking to the equipment as much as kind of looking to myself and trying to sharpen things and tighten it up.

