

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
November 18, 2022

COLE HAMMER (-12)



Q. Cole, how big was the bounce-back on your last 10 holes after the bogeys at 7 and 8?

COLE HAMMER: It was massive. I was pretty -- I was a little bit depressed after 7 and 8, for sure. I put myself in great position to make birdies and I walked out with two bogeys, and that's almost inexcusable, especially when there are birdies to be made out there. But coming back firing on 9 and then making a birdie on 10 kind of erasing those bogeys on two of the tougher holes right away was huge for momentum and for confidence. Then I rolled one in on 12 and then just kind of played steady golf in from there.

Yeah, it was obviously very much a rollercoaster round, but sometimes that's the way it is.

Q. You talked yesterday about kind of some of the frustrations during the summertime when you weren't making cuts and you get frustrated with your game, that Houston kind of helped it. Did that continue there after those bogeys that you knew good golf was still there?

COLE HAMMER: I think so. I've been hitting the ball so well and hitting my wedges really close and I just, I drew it up to an anomaly. I knew I could come back and make some birdies and yesterday I solidified that. I didn't freak out or anything going into the back nine, and thank goodness I didn't because it gave me an opportunity to play some golf.

Q. When did you find out you had an exemption into here?

COLE HAMMER: I got a little bit of an inkling on Friday night, but didn't know for sure until the Houston Open had finished up and where everybody fell. So I found out in the car ride up to Dallas on Sunday night because I flew out of Dallas.

Q. So what time?

COLE HAMMER: 6:30 maybe, 7:00. We had a flight scheduled, so it was -- you know, we scheduled it Friday just in case. It ended up being all right, but yeah, I was sweating it out for a bit.

Q. Is that, I don't know, a change of perspective at all just getting in kind of late, last minute? Is it kind of house money type of feel at all?

COLE HAMMER: One hundred percent. I'm not really supposed to be here. I was five over par through 20 holes in the Houston Open and came back and made the cut and then kind



of got a call that night that I was in this week and my fall just kind of kept getting extended. So yeah, I didn't expect to be here at all. So yeah, house money, good way to put it.

Q. What's your kind of Sea Island experience as far as amateur career?

COLE HAMMER: I've loved every second of my career at Sea Island. I've played in I think it's three Jones Cups, one Jones Cups Junior. Jones Cups are at Ocean Forest down the street and I just met so many good people from around this area. I mean, if you don't love Sea Island, I don't know what to tell you. This place is incredible and got such good memories here. My family came on a vacation when we were really young. There's really nothing better.

Q. And it was only Thursday, three rounds to go, but was there any feeling of being a leader that you had to work through out there being on the course or did it feel like a normal round?

COLE HAMMER: I mean, I'd like to say it felt like a normal round. I mean, I knew where I stood, but I also knew there's 54 holes left and a one-shot lead's not a lead on Thursday. It's just like I've put myself in a good position to hopefully roll into the weekend with a chance.

I think today's round was almost bigger than yesterday's, obviously yesterday's set up today's, but I'm proud of the way that I handled being near the top of the leaderboard. Halfway done.

Q. How much does being comfortable here on the island help. Obviously you've been here in the past a lot. Does that factor into things?

COLE HAMMER: I definitely think so. I'm trying to think. I know a lot of the guys who work in the pro shops here and it's just fun seeing familiar faces. It's obviously not a hometown event, but I do feel very comfortable around here.

Q. So playing the Jones Cup, you've seen bad weather here?

COLE HAMMER: There's no question. The Jones Cup I guess it was last year, no, two years ago, two years ago, was some of the worst weather I've ever played in my life. It was 35 degrees and blowing 30 and just miserable. So I told myself I'll probably never play in something like that again, so I was ready for yesterday.

