

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
November 20, 2022

COLE HAMMER (-15)



Q. It was an eventful week. What were your thoughts just walking off the golf course and being done?

COLE HAMMER: Wild, what a rollercoaster, so many ups and downs. I mean, pretty darn content with what happened out there. Yesterday I had a tough start, but fought back. Missed a few putts coming down the stretch, but gave myself a chance. Was only four back going into today, the leaderboard was jam packed and knew a good round would go a long way in some tough conditions. I'm just so proud of the way that I fought and battled out there. It gives me a lot of confidence moving forward and leaves a great taste in my mouth going to the offseason.

Q. It's a young pro career but you've been on it for a while. Where's this round rank as far as your career with importance and just playing good rounds under pressure?

COLE HAMMER: Well, in terms of what it means, it probably means the most of any round I've played before. But honestly, in my opinion I did such a good job of blocking that out today. I was really in the present moment on each and every shot. For whatever reason, I was less nervous today than I have been in a very long time and I think I'm just slowly starting to get more comfortable out there. I'm excited for what's next.

Q. Getting into Sony is obviously a bonus. Were you already in?

COLE HAMMER: No.

Q. What does that mean to you?

COLE HAMMER: It means the world. I mean, Hawaii's one of my favorite places in the world. I didn't know what my next event would be, could have easily been a Korn Ferry Monday qualifier. So to have a start on the PGA TOUR early in the 2023 season, it means a lot. I've heard a lot of great things about that golf course. I love old architecture, so I'm excited to get down there and tee it up and maybe go to the beach a little bit.

Q. Did you peek at the leaderboard coming down the stretch just to get a look?

COLE HAMMER: I looked about every hole. every leaderboard I could find I was paying attention. Obviously I'm not really changing my game plan based on where I am, but it is nice to know if I need to make a putt or not. I'm glad I was looking because if I didn't, I think I might have played more defensively and I got aggressive towards the end, which I think was important.

Q. You've had success on the Korn Ferry Tour, but is there any amount of relief being able to do this based on what you've done on the PGA TOUR?

COLE HAMMER: There's no question. I was fortunate enough to have success in amateur golf and a little bit on the Korn Ferry, but I'd only -- before I guess last week, I had only ever made one cut in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event. To do it now is, it's something that I'm not going to forget because it's just, it's big for, you know, me moving forward in terms of confidence. It had taken a while to get there, to get comfortable enough to be able to trust myself on the biggest stage, but I think I do now. Actually, I know I do because I proved it to myself today under a lot of pressure.

Q. How many starts were you looking at for the KFT for this up coming season with a T --

COLE HAMMER: I honestly couldn't tell you. I think it just depends on who jumps back from the PGA TOUR and is playing in a given event. I think maybe two or three, and then write some letters for sponsor exemptions and see where that takes me. Yeah, I'm not quite sure what that holds.

Q. Is there anything from kind of how you felt down the stretch at Q-School that you were able to apply this week?

COLE HAMMER: I think so. I was behind the eight ball at Q-School. I think I was even or 1 over par. Yeah, I was even par with like six holes left and needed to get to like 4 under, I think. I made a couple birdies and then Bobby, my caddie, was like, I need you to hit the best 3-wood of your life here, and I hit the best 3-wood I've ever hit. So I got in that rhythm of making birdies toward the end of a round versus taking my foot off the pedal and I kept that same mentality the last couple weeks.

Q. How do you keep from not like getting down on yourself after kind of falling a couple shots short there?

COLE HAMMER: Just now?

Q. Like a couple shots short at Q-School, not letting that kind of spiral.

COLE HAMMER: I think it's because I knew I was playing well. I was hitting the ball just the way I wanted to and a couple putts drop here or there and I'm looking at a completely different schedule. That's the crazy thing about Q-School, it's one week and sometimes it's just not your time and that was the deal with me. I really just tried to stay positive. I had some tough finishes this summer and I kept taking punches, and I figured at some point maybe I could throw a punch back and I think that happened today.

Q. Is this kind of a testament of how deep and fickle golf can be, kind of the

dichotomy of Q-School to contending here down the stretch on the PGA TOUR?

COLE HAMMER: Yeah, there's no question. All the guys in college at the top tier are so good, the guys on the Korn Ferry are so good, anybody can go out and shoot 56 on a given day. I'm just happy that it happened to be me today.

Q. I know you said last Friday you had an inkling you would get in here. When did you know for sure that you were in?

COLE HAMMER: Sunday night. I had driven to Dallas. I was going to catch a plane on Monday afternoon if I got in, so I had packed under the contingency that I was going to get in, but I didn't find out completely until Sunday night.

Q. I guess Houston was cold. Did you have enough cold weather gear?

COLE HAMMER: I did. Houston was a wake-up call for me, so I packed everything I had. Actually, Peter Millar sent me some sweaters that I needed big time, so thankful for them.

Q. What's your plan the next few weeks? Any down time?

COLE HAMMER: Yes. I'm going to hide my clubs for about a week. Going to Shreveport, Louisiana, to be with some family this week for Thanksgiving and then I'll play a few fun things this December, not competitively or anything, but I'm looking forward to a little time off.