

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
January 25, 2023



SAM RYDER (-8)

Q. Sam, great round, 8-under 64 to open. Just some comments on that bogey-free today.

SAM RYDER: Yeah, great to start off with an eagle. Scorable conditions, drove it great, ironed it well, rolled a couple putts in. You know, don't want to complain or act like I should have made more birdies or putts, but it was -- you know, I got up and down on number, what is it, No. 3, my 12th hole of the day.

But it was pretty stress-free, it was fun. I've been working hard since the start of the new year and felt good about my game. It was just, it started off the tee for me, it was drive it in the fairway and I felt like I could attack. I fell on some good numbers, so had some good fits. Always nice to get off to a good start in the round where you don't feel like you're kind of pressing or anything, it kind of came to me early. Yeah, it was a good day.

Q. You must have put in some good work. You come in here after a couple missed cuts and I think this might be your lowest score at this tournament. Is there a reason like the work that you put in, was there something specific that you did?

SAM RYDER: Honestly, I felt like I was shaking holiday rust off really. My attitude going out to Hawaii was if I don't make the cut or have a great week, I'll still be getting reps in and building on the weeks to come. This is a place where I had a little bit of success. I've missed the cut and I had a top-10 here. I'm pretty comfortable on the course, it's just a matter of playing well. I had a couple good finishes in the fall so I'm not really trying to do anything new, I'm kind of just trying to pick back up. Like I said, it's just the reps of getting back into tournament mode and feeling like I, you know, am doing the things I'm trying to do on the range, bringing it into competition. Yeah, it's nice to definitely build some confidence moving forward.

Q. Is there such a thing as momentum on the course once you get rolling? Like if you -- if you do well over two or three holes, does that kind of carry over, or is it just you take each one on its own?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, I think there's -- it goes both ways. The right answer is to try to keep each one on its own, but when you start to see good shots early on and then when you start to get to 6, 7, 8 under, sometimes it turns into, you know, trying to manage that, too, and continue to keep your foot on the pedal and stay aggressive and keep doing things. It definitely is always nice to see good shots being hit and you can create some momentum, but you also have to finish rounds. You're only as good as how you finish and there's three more days of golf, so going to see if I can carry that into the next couple days.

Q. And what about from round to round? I mean, getting the first day lead doesn't mean a whole lot in the grand scheme, but it's got to help, right?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, we'll see. There's still a lot of golfers out there so we'll see what happens by the end of the day. But it's always nice to have that pressure or whatever you want to call it of being up near the top of the leaderboard, you take that over trying to chase cuts or being in the back, it's kind of a privilege to have that opportunity.

Yeah, I'm going to really just kind of keep doing what I'm doing. I know tomorrow's going to be a little tougher. I'm playing the South Course, which is typically a little tougher, so I'm just going to be patient and try and let the round come to me. All the cliche things, try and do that and take it day by day.

Q. The putt on 10 to get started, pretty long one I understand. What was the line? Did you feel like you had a good line on it?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, there wasn't much to it. No. 10 is one of the easier holes on the course, short par 5, beautiful hole going down towards the ocean. You know, it started the day. You're really thinking kind of it's nice to hit it in the fairway, hit it on the green. You're thinking OK, maybe I can make a 4. I wasn't really thinking attack, attack, but there wasn't much to the putt. It was actually fairly straight and it was one of those when it was halfway there, it looked pretty good and it just kind of fell in perfect. It's almost like a little bit of a bonus, but it's really nice to start the round with a birdie or eagle. All my great rounds I feel like usually start with a birdie.