

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 26, 2023

SAM RYDER (-12)



Q. Sam, looks like you're going to be the 36-hole leader here at the Farmers. How does it feel to be in this spot and what's been working well for two days to put yourself in this spot?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, it feels great. The thing I've been kind of telling myself is to just try and embrace it. It's not a position that I've been in a lot, you know, so just trying to enjoy it. It's kind of why we play, so just trying to look around and enjoy the moment.

And I'm just doing everything pretty solid. Starts off the tee for me, I'm driving it well. My iron play is really good, so I feel like if I put it in the fairway, I can attack. And I don't think I really missed many shots today. I missed a couple fairways, but the irons have been really good.

And I just tried to free it up on the greens a little. Putted a little bit last night and just tried to just trust what I'm doing. I feel like I had a couple nice bunker saves, like things that you have to do to keep rounds going especially on a tough day like this where it's windy around a tough course.

So everything was kind of clicking pretty well the last couple days and I'm just going to try and keep doing a lot of the same.

Q. And you and Brendan playing together and being one-two on the leaderboard, just speak to how unique that is in a field of 150-some players?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, it started early yesterday and it's been fun. It's a comfortable pairing for us. He was calling me "Sleeves" today, nicknamed "Sleeves" because I've worn two long-sleeved shirts the last two days. I think I'm out of long-sleeved shirts so I'm going to have to wear a normal shirt tomorrow.

Yeah, we're just having fun. Like I said, it's been kind of silly and just trying to -- we're obviously focused and we're trying to play well. It's really hard and we get frustrated at times, but it's nice to be able to have a couple laughs, and at the end of the day we're playing golf and trying to enjoy it. We love the game. So it has been fun and playing well makes it better. I think we're both -- if we're playing together tomorrow, it's going to make it that much more enjoyable.

Q. And the conditions, kind of speak to just the difference between yesterday and today and how that kind of affects your preparation and your thought process.

SAM RYDER: The weather conditions?



Q. Um-hmm.

SAM RYDER: Yeah, I think we'll -- we knew today was going to be like a put your helmet on and kind of get ready for a battle. It started like that for me, I had to make a couple nice pars early on. Made a bogey on 4.

There's no letting up out there. You can't even to the last hole on 18, the layup shot, you know, or the wedge shot, you just can't, you can't take anything for granted so you just have to continue. I mean, the conditions are the conditions. It's still beautiful, it's a beautiful course, great spot. I can't control any of that, all I can control is my attitude and how I prepare. Just going to kind of try and take it all in stride and do a lot of the same. I know it sounds like I'm beating a dead horse, but that's kind of what I'm doing.

Q. I know the tee shot on 13 was moved up 70 yards or so. Were you expecting that and does that change your kind of game plan on that hole at all?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, that was a bit of a surprise, but I think they were just prepared for some tougher conditions. It turned from a three-shot tough layup to hit a good drive and you could go for the green in two and make a birdie.

We're not going to really know how it's going to be set up fully tomorrow. Kind of like U.S. Opens, they kind of change things up. I don't think that's the nature of this tournament necessarily, but I'm sure most of the tees are going to be back, they're going to set it up pretty tough. The winning score's usually hang around where they're at over the weekend. And if the weather's good, the greens are only going to get firmer and the course is only going to get tougher and the rough is growing. Still going to be a premium on hitting fairways and just going to have to stay patient and grind it out.

Q. What clicked for you at the turn?

SAM RYDER: I think I just kind of settled in the round a little bit and started hitting a couple more fairways. Like I missed the fairway on 1 and missed the fairway on 4. I missed a couple fairways so it just stresses everything, but I started driving it well. Like I drove it well on 10, I hit a good iron on 11 even though it didn't go on the green, and 12 I hit it perfect. I just got into a nice rhythm with the driver and I think I was just settling into the round from a comfort standpoint more than anything else. I was like, making a couple pars when I don't hit great shots kind of relaxes you a little bit because you kind of understand, OK, even if I don't play perfect golf, which no one is going to, I can still make some pars and get around. Got a couple good breaks and you need to have good rounds out here. I think it was mostly just settling in and getting comfortable with where I was at with my game in the moment.

Q. The weather folks say tomorrow should be beautiful like day one and Saturday might be a lot more like this, put a little more premium on trying to go as low as you can tomorrow knowing it's going to be another grind on Saturday?



SAM RYDER: Yeah, I'm not going to really change my approach a whole lot. It's just one of those things that just starts to happen. Like I didn't go out there on Thursday and think I'm going to shoot 8 under today because the weather was good. It just kind of, I hit some good shots and the round started coming to me.

So I'm just going to, you know, all the cliché things, kind of try and take it one shot at a time. I'm going to try and get some rest this afternoon and do a couple things, putt a little bit and tighten the driver up.

Yeah, I mean, playing late or later in the day on this golf course, it's tough. Traffic on the greens and it's not -- it's never easy out there. So just going to try and take it in stride and see if I can keep myself in a good position and stay aggressive.

Q. Did you -- did you growing up either watch the U.S. Open at Torrey or played Torrey on a video game? Did you have any knowledge of Torrey, I guess, when you were a kid?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, I think watching the U.S. Open when Tiger beat Rocco, everyone talks about the putt he made on 18. We were talking about it, like the ball's just kind of bouncing along, but when Tiger hits it, it just looks like it was never going to miss. That's kind of how it is out here.

This is one of my favorite courses on the planet, but late in the day on these poa annua greens they don't all -- they're not all going to be perfect. It's not Augusta National. It's just going to be a little bit different. You just kind of have to do the things you can control.

And so I was a little familiar, but I didn't realize I don't think how difficult it was tee to green until I got here. I played the first time, actually one of my best friends growing up got married here and I was in his wedding and we just played the day before he got married, and I fell in love with the golf course a little bit. I've had a little bit of success here as a pro, so I always enjoy coming back here.

Q. Your friend, what was the connection to getting married here? Did he move out here?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, he went to law school in San Diego and fell in love and got married. So we were like, all right, we're going out to San Diego for your wedding. Went straight to Brazil for a Web.com Tour event from the wedding and finished top 25, which got me into the next week and that kind of started my season on that tour.

Q. The beauty of golf.

SAM RYDER: Yep, absolutely.

