

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 26, 2023



BRENDAN STEELE (-9)

Q. Brendan, another strong round. Could you kind of assess how it went out there today and how it compared to yesterday?

BRENDAN STEELE: Yeah, I mean obviously conditions way more difficult and the course is more difficult on its own anyway, so different kind of challenge today. Some of the holes playing just like extremely long and holes that you wouldn't expect to be really hard. Like No. 8 was playing just like crazy long today, there's kind of a backup there and that's one of the easier holes on the course usually. Some weird stuff, but I played really nice and excited to be where I am going into the weekend.

Q. And kind of you've played on this tour a while, just the fact that the top 2 on the leaderboard are both from the same group in a 150ish player field, how unique that is and how you were able to feed off each other.

BRENDAN STEELE: Yeah, yeah, that definitely doesn't happen that often. You get good play obviously all the time, which is nice to feed on, but Sam was playing awesome. It was nice to see the ball going in the hole for the last couple days. We're just super comfortable together. We had a lot of fun together, so I think that makes it a little easier, especially when it's cold out.

And probably an advantage for us to play North yesterday and get a really low score under our belt because I don't know how the scores are going over there today, but I can't imagine they're anywhere near as low as they were yesterday. Probably helped us that the rotation was probably good for us in the end.

Q. You mentioned weird stuff. Was there any like shot or break or thing that was particularly weird or unique today?

BRENDAN STEELE: No, just stuff that you wouldn't expect out there as far as like I was trying to think about where the wind was going to be coming from last night and like how some of the holes were going to be playing. I just wasn't expecting like No. 8 to be so brutal or No. 3 to be playing so short or things like that. No. 6 was like, it was blowing about as hard as it did all day when we were on 6 and it was just crazy how hard the ball was going to hit up there. It's one of those days where the weather has the full control of the ball, you just have to hang on.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRENDAN STEELE: Yeah, you have to be very intuitive with the wind going up and down

and when it's moving around because it does change. It might be in and off the right and then if it shifts more to off the right, the shot's totally different. So you have to be a little careful especially when it's blowing that hard. If it changes at all, you really have to be paying attention.

Q. Your formative years not too far from here. How often as a youngster did you get out and play this track?

BRENDAN STEELE: I played a decent amount before they redid it, before they redid both sides. This is going back now 25 years. I played Junior World here a couple times, I played some other junior events here up until the last one would have been in 2001, in the summer of 2001 and then had a break until back on Tour. So I know the place pretty well, I've been playing it for a long time, but it's definitely, it's changed over the years for sure.

Q. Did you guys have a lot of conversation out there or is it pretty kind of stay to your own business?

BRENDAN STEELE: No, we were talking on every hole. We were making jokes and we kind of play off each other very well. Our sense of humor is very childish and immature so we're kind of going with that the whole day for two days and that made it nice and made it seem like it wasn't as difficult out there as far as like the waiting and sitting around. We kind of killed time a lot easier.

Q. So in a way you kind of just like, the uniqueness of the day and the challenge, you kind of laughed at it in a way?

BRENDAN STEELE: Yeah, we found different things to make fun of, make fun of ourselves, make fun of each other, just ask each other questions and just kind of joke around. It was good. I think that definitely helped us a lot we were very comfortable.