

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
January 27, 2023

COLLIN MORIKAWA (-7)



Q. Collin, how would you describe that round? Looking at the scorecard, it's got some circles and some squares on it, but how would you describe it as you were going through that process?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's probably the most up-and-down round, you know, this early calendar year so far. But the game still feels good. I knew if I kind of just kept hitting fairways, the irons would find its way, I'd give myself some chances.

But yeah, you know, I just wish I didn't give away as many strokes. Definitely could have been a little bit more aware on what I was doing and where I was hitting some shots. But it is what it is and we're going to need a low one tomorrow to hopefully put some pressure early through nine.

Q. You have played your way back into contention a little bit and being in the mix, yeah, you said you probably need a low one. Did you have a number in mind when you went out there this morning?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Not really. I mean, you know, this is a course where, you know, you can shoot 5, 6 under, but it's also like you could be grinding for even par. I was just hoping that Sam was kind of going to stay around his number where he started today. Wished we kind of chewed away a little more of the lead, but it is what it is. Yeah, hopefully we got that good one in us tomorrow.

Q. Was there a highlight out there in the round for you that sort of stood out?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Probably the 3-wood on 18 was exactly, like exact number I wanted to land it, exact shot I described to JJ and it was a good way it finish the round. Putt looked really good, too, but just didn't drop.

Q. How do you think the things that you've been working on, are they clicking this week or is there still more work to be done there?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, no, it's -- you know, obviously you want to get to a tournament and not think about anything, but I think at all times you're always working on something. Even when I look back at past events that I've played well, like you're always working on something. You know, I've kind of just gone really simple this week and not tried to worry about chipping as much as I did, say, in Hawaii.

But putting has kind of felt, it's been off and on. It hasn't felt great, but it hasn't felt terrible.

That's why I've got an extra guy on my team, I've got Stephen to kind of reach out to and find answers, just kind of find that equilibrium again and be where I want to be.

Q. There's some other guys up there, but it could come down to you and Rahm again.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I'd love that. I'd take that in a heartbeat. You know what, really anytime you've given yourself a chance come Sunday, it's exciting.

But look, he's the hottest player on the planet right now and I feel like my game, if I put together 18 good holes, we could be right there. It's going to take a good one tomorrow. He's I think at 10 and he's not letting go of the pedal either.

Q. I was with you most of the day and I saw you went some highs and a little lows. Was there -- the crowds bothering or something else?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: That's a funny one. We play in front of crowds every week.

Q. No, no, I know, and most of the time they're going "Go Bears," et cetera?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, welcome to golf. You just hit bad shots and you make mistakes. I mean, I don't think this is the first time I've ever made whatever I made, six birdies and four bogeys. It's golf and this is a tough golf course. And if you're not hitting the fairways or you're not hitting the greens, you're scrambling. It's not like these greens are going to be perfect, you're going to have some putts that you're going to hit great and they're going to go offline because of the bumps.

Welcome to the golf world.

Q. And the rough is rough, that's for sure.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: The rough is very thick, yeah.