

**SAM RYDER ( -12)**

---

**Q. Sam, in with even par today, nine pars on the back nine. When you're leading a tournament, it's really, really difficult to stay in front and you've done that. Are you pretty satisfied with that round?**

**SAM RYDER:** I'm pretty satisfied. I put myself in some decent positions in the fall, and like Mayakoba I was playing the last group with Russell Henley and didn't have a great Saturday.

Today it's just a different level of pressure. I didn't feel like I had to go try and make something happen or press, you know, so I didn't panic when I made a bogey on 2 and I kind of just adjusted to the round and kind of got a feel for where I was at with my swing and my game. Hit some really good shots, felt like I could have made a couple more putts, but overall all I'm very pleased and starting the day with a lead, ending the day with a lead, pretty satisfied.

**Q. Was there anything at all today that surprised you, either a shot or just an emotion or kind of anything as you think about how the day unfolded?**

**SAM RYDER:** No. I mean, I don't want to act surprised that I hit a lot of good shots out there. I had a really good warmup, felt good, my body feels good, I've been getting good rest. I expect to go play well.

I'm getting into a mode where I expect to have a good, like have maybe not my A-game or A-plus-game every single day but I expect to have something decent. Yeah, I just -- the pins were tough. Honestly, today I felt like there were a couple pins like on 12 like you just can't even hardly look at them. I hit a great shot on 15 like exactly what I wanted to do and I had a 15-, 20-foot putt that broke five feet. Just trying to take some opportunities when I can and I know tomorrow's probably going to be a lot of the same things and going to have to say patient.

**Q. Do you feel like you've kind of been building toward this for the last few years just in your career kind of in general, to being on this stage and ready to rumble against a top-ranked player in the world?**

**SAM RYDER:** Yeah, I want this to be a regular thing. Even regardless of what happens tomorrow, I want to just give myself more opportunities. I've won at every level from college to, you know, PGA Canada to Web.com and this is the next on the list. Whether it's tomorrow or whether it's down the road, I believe that's going to happen at some point. Just trying to enjoy the journey and the ride and all those things, too, as much as possible.



**Q. Are you a leaderboard watcher and if so, how much did you see Jon Rahm and like half the U.S. Presidents Cup team coming up towards you?**

**SAM RYDER:** Today I didn't look a ton because I kind of knew where I was at and everyone kind of had to come to me and there's one more day. But tomorrow I'll be playing with Jon and Tony and these guys, so I'm probably going to have a very good feel for where I'm at. But typically I am a -- typically I do look at the leaderboards. I like to know where I'm at. It affects how you play, I think. I think it affects your strategy a little bit.

So I think all the best players, they look -- not putting myself in that realm at this point, but I always like to know where I'm at. Tomorrow it will be no different. Feel like I'll have a very good idea based on the guys I'm playing with.

**Q. You've been real consistent in keeping your card every year out here, but what do you think's held you back from winning to date?**

**SAM RYDER:** It's just hard playing four good rounds. I mean, it's really I shouldn't say easy, but it's easy to have a hot nine holes or a really good 36 or 54 and it's just hard to play four days. You just have to continue to put yourself in that position, you know.

I think part of it was when I started playing good golf, you know, end of my rookie season into my sophomore season, I had a little bit of injury and then I also went through some swing changes, went through some of those -- down those paths, and kind of got back to my DNA, which now like we were talking about earlier is kind of my, like kind of my way of playing golf, the way I feel like I can win, not necessarily how Jon Rahm wins or Tony Finau wins or Rory. It's kind of my way and I'm trying to stay true to that.

**Q. What do you remember from Omaha and is there anything from that win you can draw on tomorrow?**

**SAM RYDER:** Yeah, I think about it a lot because it was a -- you know, I had a seven-shot lead I think going into Sunday. This is only a two-shot lead with a lot better golfers. You know, those were great golfers, too, not to knock them, but it's different, it's a different feeling leading. I'm going to -- I can't -- I can only control what I can control so I'm just going to go out there and just -- it just sounds cliché, but I'm just going to try to take it one shot at a time and let the round come to me. I know if I keep doing the things I'm doing, I should have a chance at the end of the day.

**Q. What's your kind of experience with Jon Rahm? Have you played with him or crossed paths with him?**

**SAM RYDER:** Super nice guy. I mean, great player. He's one of the guys I look to as one of the best in the world, if not the best. He doesn't have any weaknesses in his game. I've spent some time around him. I played a nine-hole practice round with him in the Playoffs a



couple years ago, but haven't really played much golf with him.

But super nice. Was very open about his golf IQ. He's a very intelligent golfer not to mention his talent, so it was cool to watch him work and kind of see the way he thinks through some of the golf courses and his shots.

Yeah, so I mean he's a competitor, I'm not expecting him to go out there and be my buddy tomorrow. I think he's going to go out there and try and win, what, his third straight start I guess this year, yeah.

**Q. Is it cool to have this stage knowing it's prime time golf and going head to head, final group, like you said, Jon Rahm and Tony Finau, just having this opportunity as an athlete and competitor?**

**SAM RYDER:** Yeah, I mean, I love the game and I love to play. You want to see -- you ultimately want to see how good you can be. Playing against the best players in the world kind of really shows you how good you are. It's really, it's fun, it's exciting, so I'm just going to try and enjoy it.

**Q. I think I heard you say in one of the previous interviews you're eating the same thing every night. Why have you been doing that and what have you been eating?**

**SAM RYDER:** I grew up playing all sports, but I played mostly baseball and we were a very superstitious bunch, the baseball players. It's like if it ain't broke, don't fix it kind of thing. If you're feeling good, I'm sleeping well. It's like I remember where I was in Omaha when I won, I was sitting at the same seat at the bar. I'm not going to that level, but just sticking to what I'm doing. It's nice to kind of feel the same. There's a -- I can't control the weather or the conditions, my tee time, things like that. If I can control my environment as much as possible, it helps you feel a little bit more comfortable.

**Q. What's the meal?**

**SAM RYDER:** I actually just went up the road to like Urban Place, which is kind of a semi healthy. So I had a little, it was just a little chimichurri steak and some sweet potatoes and broccoli and a little rice. Pretty simple, nothing -- sparkling water.

**Q. Sam, just one last one from me and it's kind of random but I noticed that logo on the right of your sweater there and I didn't see it last year. Is that something new? And it kind of seems --**

**SAM RYDER:** Over here?

**Q. No, other side on the right chest. It's kind of obvious. How did that come about and is it new?**



**SAM RYDER:** Oh, yeah, it was new as of, what, end of this summer into the fall. Yeah, Ryder Logistics, it's been a good partnership and yeah, it seemed pretty organic. There's no relation with me to the group, but ran into a friend of a friend basically and got in touch with them. I think after the hole-in-one there was some excitement last year and things have been -- you know, happened kind of organically. Hopefully it will be a great partnership for a long time.

