

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
February 9, 2023

STEPHEN AMES (-6)



Q. So you've had some success in Morocco before and this is a tough course, but today was a great day for you. What was working?

STEPHEN AMES: Everything. Hit a lot of fairways, hit a lot of good iron shots and made some putts obviously, that's the key here. I didn't three-putt, which is good. I think that was a good motive for the week, I guess, is to try and not three-putt too many times.

No, it was a solid round, hit the ball nicely, gave myself a lot of opportunities and the opportunity rolls, I made some nice putts.

Q. Anything you've been working on in the offseason after the successful season you had last year to --

STEPHEN AMES: Besides not trying to drink too much and tan too much, no, I didn't work very hard on my -- on my game, to be honest. No, I got to Hawaii a little shabby. I played golf, but I didn't actually work on my game.

And funny enough, I started filming this week and I was like looking at my ball position, I went, oh, my God, how far off is this. So my key today was to actually move the ball a little further back and I hit the irons really nice, which is nice.

Q. You got off to a rough start, bogeyed two of your first four holes, I believe?

STEPHEN AMES: Did I? No, you got the score wrong. Score was wrong.

Q. Was it really?

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, it was.

Q. I had you at 2 over at some point.

STEPHEN AMES: No. Score was wrong, score was wrong, yeah.

Q. How many bogeys did you have?

STEPHEN AMES: I had two total today.

Q. So eight birdies around here?



STEPHEN AMES: Oh, yeah, I guess you're right, yeah. I had to think about it. Yeah, that's pretty good.

Q. Were you playing out there?

STEPHEN AMES: I don't know, I guess I was. Yeah, it was eight birdies, yeah.

Q. And everyone around here is like shooting (inaudible)?

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, it is. Yeah, tough golf course, tough greens as we both know, yeah.

Q. What's the key? Can you play aggressive?

STEPHEN AMES: No, you can't putt aggressive and you can't play aggressive. Sometimes if your numbers fall on the number for your club, yeah, you can go at it kind of because you know where you want to hit it on the shelf-wise, but when you have to go over a shelf, you don't want to be short because you've got another 30-footer back. Yeah, you've sometimes got to go 30 feet left, which is sometimes -- some holes I did do that and I made the 25-footer, but that's the way the golf course is pretty much set up right now.

Q. And just overall just being back in Morocco, having an invite back, what's it like to be back here?

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, it's nice. We enjoyed two years ago I believe it was very much. I'm not going to say where it was, we all know where it was. And Rabat, I've been here before years ago, but I can't remember the golf course the way it is now compared to what it was then. It's completely different for me right now.

