

VERITEX BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW

April 13, 2023

NOAH GOODWIN (-9)



Q. All right, Noah, big birdie there at the end to take the outright lead for the first round. Just walk us through today and what was going right for you.

NOAH GOODWIN: Yeah, pretty much everything. I got off to a little bit of a rough start, I bogeyed my third hole to go 1 over and just like putts weren't really looking good to me. Told my caddie, Sunshine, to just give me reads for the rest of the day and it worked out pretty good in my favor, so I think he's going to keep reading everything for me for the rest of the week. I just hit some good golf shots. I made a few mistakes, but I didn't let them get to me and I just bounced back really well all day.

Q. How does it feel to be playing here in Texas, in Dallas? You went to school at SMU, so how does it feel to be kind of in home territory?

NOAH GOODWIN: Oh, it's awesome. I love being home, just the comfort of it, getting to have friends and family out here cheering me on, supporting me, getting to go to like restaurants that I know that I love and everything like that. It just adds a whole new level of just comfort and you don't really get that on the road all the time. Whenever we're traveling, you're bouncing around, so just the comfort of it all and getting to that little bit extra support is really nice.

Q. You played Canada last year and traveled internationally, but now you're finally back home. Are you staying in your own bed, traveling every day?

NOAH GOODWIN: Yeah, staying in my own bed. It's only like a 28-minute drive, I've just got to worry about rush hour traffic occasionally. It's nothing I can't handle or anything.

But it's definitely nice coming from last summer just being in Canada the entire time. Beginning of this year we were all international. So really Savannah was like my first event in the States in a really long time. Just kind of being able to be home for the second one of it just helps mellow me out and everything, kind of can keep things in perspective.

Q. Aside from Sunshine helping you read your putts, what else about this course kind of fit you or just suits your game?

NOAH GOODWIN: Yeah, I think just the wedges into the green kind of helped me a lot. I feel like ball-striking is one of my strengths and if you're hitting the ball out here with all the different tiers that are on the greens, you can leave yourself some pretty good putts versus



kind of lagging it around all day. So I think I just hit the ball really good, I gave myself a lot of birdies and was able to capitalize on those birdies.

Q. First round of Savannah was your first tournament in the States since when?

NOAH GOODWIN: Since PGA Canada went to Minnesota, that would have been July think. No, no, no, it was September or very beginning of September, August, something like that, because I didn't play final stage of Korn Ferry Q-School. I got sick right before and had to WD. I was just in bed for like a week straight. Yeah, haven't played much golf in the States lately, it's kind of weird. Pretty frequent international traveler.

Q. Getting that passport filled up?

NOAH GOODWIN: Oh, yeah, passport's filled up, frequent flyer miles are filling up, all of it.

Q. What happened before Q-School? Like what got you -- what was the sickness?

NOAH GOODWIN: I got Salmonella or E. coli, the doctor wasn't too sure, but I couldn't stomach food for a week straight and I just laid in bed the entire time. It wasn't too fun, it wasn't fun at all.

Q. Was it like a sting to see Q-School going on knowing that you couldn't improve your status or were you able to easily turn your mindset to just taking advantage of your opportunities?

NOAH GOODWIN: No, it 100 percent stung. That's like you get to go to final stage and I had already got decent status with finishing up third up in Canada, so I knew I pretty much had like four starts. Yeah, it definitely hurt. I felt great about my golf game at the time and you're watching everybody else go out and play and you're just like that could be me, I could be out there competing alongside with them. Then from there it's like, man, I only have four starts, I could have gotten some more out of it. I kind of had to buckle down, realize that I still had good opportunities with those four and I could just only focus on what I could control at that point.

Q. So just having that, you know, giving yourself a good spot in the reshuffle, is it nice knowing that missing Q-School didn't really hurt you in that regard and now you have the full season pretty much to kind of go?

NOAH GOODWIN: It's nice. Everything happens for a reason is what I like to say. As much as it sucked not to be able to play, maybe it was a blessing. Who knows, I can't predict what would have happened or anything. Just trying to focus on just moving forward in everything, just keep trying to play good golf and everything kind of takes care of itself. Just keep having fun out here.

Q. And lastly, when did you and your family move to Dallas? You were born in



Michigan?

NOAH GOODWIN: Yeah, I was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We got out of there when I was like 5 weeks old and we moved to Charleston, South Carolina. Was in Charleston until I was 3 and then came here. Pretty much bleed Texas, it's all I ever really remember besides like vague memories here and there, but nothing really -- Texas is home to me.

Q. I have one follow-up as well. Having those two wins out on Canada and then fighting your way for the status here, playing well, just how does that make you feel starting your pro career off on that kind of a foot?

NOAH GOODWIN: Yeah, Canada was an awesome experience. It taught me how to go low, it taught me how to kind of put it all on the line, and with points up there and everything, it's such a short season, wins, top 2s, 3s are so important. It kind of just taught you how to reach for the stars every single time. Then if it doesn't work out, it doesn't work out and you go on to the next week. I think with especially how I've played so far this year, made two cuts but it's kind of been lackluster, just kind of here or there, some signs of great golf but never really making it through. I think that time in Canada definitely helped me just kind of, you keep the pedal down, you keep focusing on what you can kind of control and eventually it will all turn out OK.

Q. How does it feel being in the position that you're in heading into the second round?

NOAH GOODWIN: I can't complain, it's pretty nice. I'll sleep good tonight and just try to go out tomorrow and have some fun and see what happens.

Q. You mentioned you have some friends and family here. Who do you have out?

NOAH GOODWIN: So my best friend Phil's out here with me. My other best friend Leo, I've got another really good friend Gavin out here, my girlfriend Beanie's out here. I had a really good older friend of mine, Jacob, came out and then some family friends, like cousins and just like really close family friends that we've known forever. I got a little roar on 8 whenever I made like a 15-footer to get tied for the lead, so that was nice. Just like little things like that, it keeps you relaxed out there.

Q. Does it help build confidence or is there like a little bit of pressure kind of like to perform in front of them, too?

NOAH GOODWIN: Sure, there's always pressure, but it's more just like I know they'll love me no matter what even if I make a putt or I make a 12 on the hole. Just kind of knowing that I have their support at the end of the day, it's just golf at the end of the day. It might go good for you, it might go really badly for you, but you've always got tomorrow. So just having them out here to support me and keep me relaxed and everything is always nice.

