

ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE

June 29, 2023



COLLIN MORIKAWA (-6)

Q. Collin, great start. So you look for these little signs of confidence of things heading in the right direction. What's it like when it starts to click in like today?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's easy. That's the thing, it's frustrating because it's so close. You can shoot like I did last week, shot 4 over the first day and shoot 7 under the next. They're just fine margins. My caddie and I have really just been studying what we need to do and how to execute better shots and just hitting a few more quality shots and not missing in the wrong spots. That's kind of all it was, the difference between the past couple months and today and then last round at Travelers.

Q. You get the feeling it's going to need to continue here, because it seems like low is where you have to go?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, absolutely. What's great is that I didn't feel like I played phenomenal today and put together six birdies. We didn't really have many tough stretches or had to make many par saves out there so that's what you want, you want to keep giving yourself birdie opportunities, especially on this golf course where 25, 30 under might win.

Q. I know you said pre-see that it's kind of been a frustrating year at points, but from a statistical perspective you're hitting it about as well as you've hit it any of these previous years. Is that part of the frustration, that maybe the wins aren't coming when you feel you are hitting it well?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I don't think I'm hitting it well until today, until this week really. There were -- like the good shots were good, the good shots were just as good, but the misses were worse. That's the problem, the misses were just in spots I never would have put myself, just blind luck over there trying to make up and down. So that's what it goes out to is just really hitting a little more quality shots, the misses are a little bit better and you just play from there. Like I said today, it was an easy 6 under, it could have been a lot lower, but that's kind of what I want, how my game should be really.

Q. Was Memorial the first time you did AimPoint or kind of put it in competition?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: PGA.

Q. How has that gone for you? I was looking at stats, a couple positives rounds. Do you feel like it's helped so far?



COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah. I thought I putted well at PGA. It's just an extra tool for me to kind of learn how to read greens. It's made my green reading even better. It's just to kind of get start lines and take it loosely from there.

Q. Beyond posting 66, what did you like best about today? What felt best?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Nothing really, I just kept it in front of me. Like I said, I didn't put myself in really many bad spots. When I did, like I put myself bad on 18, got lucky, made the bunker shot and you're turning a four or five possibly into a three. That was really the only really poor shot out there. The chip shots weren't great, but it was a lot of easy 10-, 15-footers for birdie and hopefully we can just kind of get more of those rolling for the rest of the week.

Q. Expanding on you saying you haven't really felt good until this week, how confident are you knowing, like you said, you can go even lower tomorrow?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's great, it feels great to just have control of the golf ball. That's the biggest thing is know where the golf balls going to go even on the misses, just swinging free. And we were kind of able to do that today. It was kind of a late grind yesterday to tweak a few things, but glad we figured it out.

Q. Did you find something between rounds in Hartford?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yes, kind of. I found probably the most important thing yesterday afternoon after my pro-am. It's been a lot of work on the range, it's been a lot of just playing on the course, seeing what the ball's doing.

Like I said, the good shots are good, so like it's tough because like I can go hit five, 10 balls on the range, looks great and then you put it on the course and that's where shots matter. It was something nice to find yesterday and kind of work from there. I won't tell you, so...

Q. No? Was it (inaudible)?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's in my golf swing.

Q. The smoke, did you notice it at all?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: We showed up on like Tuesday. It was weird, we played all day and we didn't really -- I didn't really smell it until we did the celebrity scramble and then it really hit me.

Q. Today, did it change sightlines or anything?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Sightlines?



Q. Did it change anything for you today?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, no.

Q. Not asking you to tell me, but why do you not want to tell?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Well, because it's still a work in progress. I think for me the swing thoughts and just basic things, like it's nothing, it's nothing complicated at all. Like it is the least complicated thing.

Q. But it's top secret?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: But it affects a lot, how about that?

