

ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE

June 29, 2023



AARON RAI (-7)

Q. Aaron, 7-under 65, nice start. If we can get some comments on your play today.

AARON RAI: Thank you very much.

Yeah, played really nicely. Drove it very well off the tee, which is probably the most important part around here. That gives you a lot of wedges and short irons into a number of the par 4s, helps you to get to a couple of the par 5s. Played well on all of those scorable holes really, which was key to kind of keeping the score moving in the right direction. Yeah, overall, played very nicely, very pleased with the first round.

Q. Take us through the eagle.

AARON RAI: Yeah. Towards the end of our round the wind started to pick up a little bit and fortunately on hole No. 7, the par 5, it was kind of down out of the right. There was a bunker at 295 and with that little bit of extra wind it made it clearable, which only left us I think 215, 210 to the pin, which was a perfect 5 hybrid. Hit a great second shot and made good putt from about 18 feet. We were fortunate that the wind kind of switched at that time which made it reachable and I was able to get it with the second shot.

Q. How would you describe the level of your confidence right now?

AARON RAI: Yeah, I feel very positive about the game. Playing very nicely tee to green, starting to hit some good wedge shots, which is nice. That's a part of the game that has been a little bit hit and miss over the last few months, and started to roll some putts in as well, which again similar to the wedge play has been a little bit hit and miss. There's been very good patches of it over the last few months, but hasn't really been consistent enough to put four good rounds together. So it's been nice to see some of those things turning around along with keeping other parts of the game very solid as well.

Q. What would you say was the key to today's round?

AARON RAI: Drove it very well and then hit a lot of good approach shots as well, had a lot of looks. Converted a couple of putts, made a good couple of up-and-downs around the middle of the round, and I think playing the par 5s very well was important. I think we played them maybe 5 under actually, 5 under today, three birdies and an eagle, which obviously helps. Just a very good all-around performance.

