

ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE

June 29, 2023



SAM RYDER (-7)

Q. Seven under 65, excellent start. If we can get some comments on your round?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, it was a pretty steady, solid day. I drove the ball in the fairway for most of the day, took advantage of the par 5s, had an eagle, only gave one back and was able to roll some nice putts in, too. All in all, it was just -- I started to build some confidence out there seeing some good shots and hitting fairways.

Yeah, hopefully I can just continue to build on that. And there's going to be a lot of birdies, there's going to be a lot of good scores today, don't expect to be leading by the end of the day depending on the conditions. We'll see what happens.

We had a couple different seasons out there I feel like with the weather today. It was like dead calm and then started getting windy and then some rain. It's just kind of be at the mercy of the course and the conditions. Yeah, it was a good start.

Q. How about the smoke, did that affect your eyes or lungs at all?

SAM RYDER: Not really. I mean, yeah, it's a little different. We kind of had that -- I played in that kind of haze yesterday. It seemed actually a little bit better today. I don't know, it like, it was pretty nice early and then it got really dark when some of that weather started moving through, and then it kind of rained and the sun tried to poke out there for a minute. Yeah, it was different. You don't really think about that too much, just kind of -- we've played in that different times of the year, we dealt with it in Minnesota couple years ago, did it in Napa with some fires over there.

Q. Take us through your eagle.

SAM RYDER: Yeah. I hit it in the fairway, 10's a short par 4, hit a good drive. Pin was kind of just over this knob, but I was kind of in between clubs, it was a 120 number and that's kind of like a max for my 54-degree wedge, so I hit kind of a choked down pitching wedge trying to control the spin.

Yeah, it just was perfect. It didn't even hardly touch anything, it didn't mess up the hole, didn't really get much of the pin.

It was funny because I was saying I did that on the par 4 No. 4 earlier in the day, I drilled like maybe less than a foot up on the flagstick and it went out to 40 feet so it was a bit unlucky. It



was almost the same exact yardage, same shot, so it was a crazy coincidence that I did that twice with kind of the same number today and that one stayed in.

Q. Are you firing at the pins like everybody else?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, that's how it's going to be. It's probably going to make it tough for someone to run away unless you can like do something crazy and shoot, you know, a 59 and back it up with 60s and 61, whatever. The scores are going to be low and I think it's just, it's good for guys good with the mid irons and short irons that can kind of attack. It's just kind of a different skill set, you have to be aggressive and have that "make birdies" mindset.

Q. Do you think there is a 59 out there this week?

SAM RYDER: Yeah. I mean, the guys have been shooting some good scores. You saw it last week at Travelers, obviously a different score to par. But the par 5s are gettable depending on the wind, both of the par 5s on the back played kind of downwind. It's definitely possible. Sometimes guys shoot scores where I'm like I don't know what course they're playing. It happens.

Q. You had some time to reflect since Farmers where you had a really good chance to win. What did you learn from that and what do you think if you're back in contention this week that you'll benefit from?

SAM RYDER: Yeah, it's really early. I played a nice round of golf today, but I'm not getting ahead of myself.

You know, I really felt pretty comfortable out there even though I don't like necessarily -- I'm not sure if I feel like my game ball-striking wise is exactly where it was there. I felt like I was in really good form at that time.

But in terms of being in that position, when you start -- when I made eagle and I have the lead, and I had the lead early that week playing on the North Course, I guess we started on Wednesday that week, but yeah, I felt pretty comfortable. It's just anytime, even though that didn't work out the way I wanted, anytime you do that I think it benefits you to be in that situation. I definitely kind of -- I thought about it today, I'm like all right, we're up in the mix early on and it was just comfortable, normal feelings that I've had. It was good, it was a positive, for sure.

