

**THE ASCENDANT**  
Presented by Blue

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
July 13, 2023

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM (-6)**

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**Q. Nick, great round. What's it like playing at altitude here? What's the biggest difference that you adjusted to and obviously adjusted well to today?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Yeah, morning rounds are the toughest I think just because it's cool out and ball's not traveling quite as far as the afternoon. So I did a pretty good job managing distance control. A couple loose shots out there, to be honest. I didn't really play my best, but I think I scored well today.

**Q. You got on a run there. Were you just hitting everything close, making putts?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** A couple putts, I hit a couple good shots. I think the fourth hole I hit the best shot of the day, which is probably one of the more challenging holes out here. I hit a 7-iron to about four feet, so that was a bonus there. Then I kind of just picked off some birdies on the par 5s and the shorter par 4s.

**Q. I know this is your last of the rehab starts as you kind of call them. How excited are you to get back out on Tour?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Yeah, I'm excited as long as the body holds up. I'm excited just because I've been playing well. I've played, this is my fifth event out here. I've had three top-10s and a 27th place finish, so I've been playing well. Just need the body to cooperate and I think hopefully good things ahead.

**Q. Playing at altitude again next week, was this sort of a very intentional pick?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Yes, traveling's tough for me on my back, flying, so kind of coming out somewhat west and then heading further west, it's going to make traveling a lot easier for my back. Obviously playing two weeks at altitude, should be pretty accustomed to it.

**Q. As you kind of mentioned with this being kind of a rehab start, does that change your goals? Like is there something specific --**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Out here?

**Q. Yeah.**



**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I just want to play well. I've always played with a lot of pressure. I put it on myself, so it's nice to kind of use these to just freewheel it, I guess. I've seen some pretty good results doing that. It's been beneficial.

**Q. Have you found anything like just from a mental perspective that you can talk about that you think you can take to the PGA TOUR?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Just play, play hard. Outcomes are outcomes. Just don't pay too much attention to what could happen, just do your best at the time to stay present.

**Q. And so your journey is a little different in terms of you're getting back out to the Tour, you're kind of out here taking your time, getting the body right again. But for the guys out here who they have 10 events left to really secure their PGA TOUR cards and solidify their place in the points list, what's that pressure like for them and how can you kind of watch them and just relate a little bit?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Yeah, it's tough, it's tough. It is my 10th year PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour, Web.com Tour, whatever you want to call it, so I've been in the position of fighting to keep my job, I've been in the position to hold my status as far as top-25 and get a PGA TOUR card. And it's tough, it's tough, but I think if you can just allow yourself to play. I mean, all these guys, I play a lot of practice rounds and I watch these guys hit it and they're all amazing. I think if they can just stay the course and trust what they're doing, that's really what I've tried to do.

**Q. And have you noticed competition out here just since that week off, and we're in this final seven-week stretch before finals, have you noticed any shifts in just the atmosphere out here? Do you think guys are more in that grind mentality?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I haven't really paid attention to it just because I don't play out here full time. This is my fifth event, so I can only assume that it's like that, yes.

