

THE ASCENDANT
Presented by Blue

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
July 13, 2023

RYAN McCORMICK (-6)



Q. Birdie at the last for 66, just kind of walk us through some of the highlights of the round and the birdie at the last.

RYAN McCORMICK: Yeah, it was nice to get one on 9 there. Just kind of made like a 25-, 30-footer. It was kind of nice to end the day, especially having battled a 30-minute break there. To finish with a couple birdies was nice.

Q. Hitting it close, making putts, everything?

RYAN McCORMICK: Yeah, hitting it a little better. Trying to hit in the fairway more this week. Swing's feeling just a little better. Nice to come off of an off-week just feeling a little bit fresher, more rested, you know. Connecting with my coach, just kind of tuning up. Yeah, just nice to be out here.

Q. You said you were trying to get the swing feeling better. What did you work on over the break that really helped?

RYAN McCORMICK: My coach, Bernie Najar, he's been awesome. He's really been great at helping me when I get off. Spoke a bunch in the off-week about a couple things that just haven't been very good recently just trying to clean some stuff up. Nothing new or crazy, just going back to some things that work well for me.

Q. You played pretty well here a couple years ago, too. It might have been last year. What do you like about this place so much?

RYAN McCORMICK: I mean, I grew up in New Jersey with no mountains. I mean, the beach is nice, but it's beautiful out here. It's just a nice place to be. I love playing at elevation, it's just nice to hit it high and straight and far. And this place is probably one of our better events of the year. Everybody comes out here to support the event, it's a great atmosphere, a great golf course, it's in great shape. Yeah, I look forward to coming here.

Q. A lot of guys talked about like wedges are tough to dial in, a lot of different numbers. Is there something in particular that makes it easier for you to adjust to it?

RYAN McCORMICK: No. I mean, for the most part I'm doing the same calculations everyone else is trying to do. I think it's just, I don't know, I've always played well out here in



Colorado. Maybe it's just nicer for me to walk around and after I hit a bad shot you go look at the mountains and it's not so bad, I don't know. But I always seem to find my game out here. Yeah, look forward to coming.

Q. Are you like a hiker, interested in hiking anything?

RYAN McCORMICK: Not during a tournament week, no. I mean, it's a long enough walk out there, 8,000 yards of walking is quite a lot. No, I mean, I just, I don't know. You walk outside the clubhouse here and you just look out, it's just a beautiful place to be. Maybe that's it.

Q. Did you do anything fun away from golf during the off-week last week?

RYAN McCORMICK: I watched -- I just watched a couple shows, nothing really. Got some sleep. I was on the wrong side of the wave a few times with these tornadoes that came through that we played in, finishing at 9:00, restart at 7:00, felt like a zombie for a couple weeks. It was just nice to just get home and sleep, honestly. I feel much fresher this week. Yeah, just a lot of sleeping and resting and watching some TV, nothing crazy.

Q. Anything that you saw worth recommending?

RYAN McCORMICK: Yeah, I watched Mr. Robot. It was incredible. Finished the last episode like Tuesday. Yeah, kept me occupied for the week.

Q. And then we're in this second seven-week stretch and this is where things start to get a little more intense out here as people start to find their place on the points list and whatnot. Does your approach change going into these next few weeks or what's your mindset right now?

RYAN McCORMICK: Yeah, I mean, I am going to play every week. I said that at the beginning of the year, so that hasn't changed for me and I'll continue to play every week.

Yeah, I mean, look, we're starting to get towards the end and I've been on the other side of the bubble for a couple years now. We start to get to this time of the year and things just start to tense up. I enjoy the challenge of that, I like getting my game ready to perform when it matters. Yeah, I'm looking forward to the home stretch and looking forward to getting in the mix.

Q. Is the thought process behind playing every week, is it just because you love golf that much or because you know like you want every last opportunity to earn points?

RYAN McCORMICK: I love competing so much. Some of the manufacturing reps, they give me crap sometimes earlier this year that I don't -- sometime I'm moseying around on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, but I love competing out here. It's so much fun to play against all of these guys. These guys are so good and I learn every week from them. It



would be brutal for me to sit at home and watch everybody play. Like I'm going to go play golf anyway at home, so I just tell everyone I'm showing up for work every week, so I'm here.

