

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTE
July 16, 2023

AKSHAY BHATIA (-17)



Q. Akshay, 65 today, excellent round. If we can get some comments on your play.

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, it was, I don't know, a little better mentality today, kind of enjoyed the round. Yeah, just had a little bit more confidence around the greens. I've been doing a pretty good job of just -- you know, my iron play's been really good the last couple weeks, which is great because that's kind of where my strengths are. Just kind of trying to sharpen up a few things.

I know I'm so close to winning out here, I have a lot of faith in my caddie. We started at Rocket Mortgage. He's been out here for a long time and he sees the potential in me. I firmly believe he can get me on top, so I'm excited for the next couple weeks and hopefully be in contention.

Q. Eagle on No. 8. Take us through that hole.

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah. I mean, I had a good drive, I think I had 248 hole, wind was in off the left and I pitched it probably four, five feet just left of the flag pin high and it just trickled over the green. I've been struggling with chipping a little bit, just kind of understanding certain lies and how does this do what, but I had a pretty basic chip. Once I hit it, I took kind of a step because I thought it was going in and then it kind of curled in.

Q. And then the three in a row, if you can take us through those.

AKSHAY BHATIA: Let's see, 11, we hit driver today instead of 3-wood just with the wind direction. I kind of hit a little bit of heel cut hybrid just short of the green, hit a really nice pitch to a foot or two and made birdie there.

Next hole I hit a 9-iron from 133 to I think a foot, then the next hole I hit a 50-degree to I think a foot, so it was pretty easy going.

Q. A lot of birdies and an eagle today in your round, last round here and now you're going to a format that's that's going to be really important next week at Barracuda. Just talk a little bit about the confidence that you have.

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, I know it's all there. I've struggled a little bit finding a driver for the last probably couple months. My driver failed at Wells Fargo and that was the first time it's ever happened to me. Probably haven't dealt with it as good as I could have, but still searching a little bit on the golf course.



Yeah, I'm excited. I know my iron play's really good. I've been to the golf course, which is great, I don't have to go out and learn it. Yeah, a lot of birdies, a lot of eagles. If I can make a few putts and get hot with the putter, then it will be, should be a good week.

Q. And last, just compare the confidence that you have now as opposed to like after the runner-up in Puerto Rico or when you were in contention in Mexico. Do you feel even better right now than you did even after those weeks?

AKSHAY BHATIA: It's hard to say. Puerto Rico's kind of a weird situation for me because it felt like I was obviously very fortunate to play those Tour events, Honda and Puerto Rico, but I was just never expecting to get special temporary this year, I never expected to be out here for the rest of the season. I expected to get my card on the Korn Ferry. Just everything happened so fast, so I was pretty confident there.

Mexico, everyone kind of knew Tony and Jon were going to be in the final group, right, but I firmly believed that I could be in that final group with them. Steve Loy, coach, he's SportFive, my agent, he gave me some words of wisdom that week at dinner a couple nights and I really believed that, took it to heart and it happened that week.

It's been a little bit of a struggle. I mean, I haven't had many great finishes, especially in the bigger events where I want to perform, but like I said, I have a great caddie now that I feel comfortable and confident. I know it's very close. Rocket Mortgage I didn't feel close, last week I felt close and this week I felt close if I just sharpen up a couple things.

