

ALBERTSONS BOISE OPEN
Presented by Chevron

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 24, 2023



CHRIS GOTTERUP (-9)

Q. I mean, a tough finish, but when's the last time you remember flirting with 59?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: It didn't even cross my mind really. It's been a while probably because it didn't even cross my mind, so that's my answer.

Yeah, I thought I hit two perfect shots on 18. It's just such a weird -- with how soft the greens are, it's such a weird second shot with a wedge. So you win some, you lose some.

Q. And out there in the round, I think TV talked about just a lot of close wedges. Was that sort of your summation of the day, just a lot of wedges in there tight?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah. I mean, I definitely went for more of the -- with how soft it was, a little more bomb and gouge kind of. If you were in the rough it was fine. Yeah, I almost preferred to be in the rough on some of them, just taking some spin off. Probably should have been in the rough on 18.

Yeah, I mean, it was just a good day. I felt like I hit a bunch of putts that the ones that went in, went in and the ones that didn't were really close. Definitely promising, for sure.

Q. Did last week give you kind of a boost coming into this week, like playing at home, a place you're familiar with?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah. I mean, definitely kind of reenergized me a little bit. We're on a nice stretch here of events, and to be at home, go hang out at the beach, hang out with the dogs and have all my people around me that week was definitely refreshing. Definitely gave me a boost coming into this last week before two weeks off.

Q. And how nice was it this week? I mean, you basically had to learn all these courses this year, but since you played Finals last year, this is probably one of the first places you --

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I know, yeah, besides last week, this is the first time I've really played one of the -- well, OU, too, but this is the first time I've really played it under tournament conditions. It's a little different than last year, but definitely really beneficial. I'm able to -- I don't feel like I have to grind as much on the course Monday through Wednesday. Yeah, I mean, just feel comfortable out here.



Q. How many -- you mentioned bomb and gouge. How many drivers do you think you hit today, and what was kind of the game plan going into the day?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I mean, I probably hit somewhere in the nine, 10 range. We were playing in the pro-am yesterday and we were like, we just need to rip driver. A lot of these greens are just weirdly soft, and with some of the slopes in 'em, it's hard to judge how perfect it's going to come. Then if you catch a firm spot, it bounces and you're going to be upset.

I like just kind of hitting driver and once I get -- if I'm hitting a bunch of them, I get in a nice groove with it. It felt good. Yeah, kind of my game plan, we'll see. If the weather stays like this, I'm sure I'll have to adjust on the fly with the next couple days, but for right now that will be my game plan.

Q. How do you assess your season so far kind of going into Finals?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Interesting. I mean, it's definitely been a good season. I don't want to say I'm disappointed, but I feel like I've played good all year and just not good enough, which is kind of weird. Out here you need to be -- to make some moves, you need to be 20 under a week. So I feel like I've been kind of hovering around the 14 through 16 number and T-20 doesn't fly you up the leaderboard a lot, but it doesn't mean you're playing bad, either.

So yeah, I've just tried to stay really patient all year. Hopefully I can keep it going this weekend. This isn't the end here, either. Just kind of making sure every shot matters and making sure I'm focused on every shot.

Q. And you mentioned, too, it's not playing bad golf obviously to shoot 14 or 16 under, that's incredible. So how do you go from really good golf to great golf? How do you kind of turn into that next gear?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: You know, I don't know if there's a good answer for it. I think the shots that you feel like you left behind on the 14 and 15, you make up -- like you're actually gaining those on those really good rounds. That means not par on par 5s and taking advantage of drivable par 4s, just making sure you're in the right spot on all these holes and not making a dumb bogey. The yeah, I mean, that's really how it comes down to on this tour. If you're avoiding the sloppy bogey and ripping up the par 5s, you're doing pretty good.

Q. Did you kind of into the round -- I know in terms of seeing, obviously there's a lot of low scores up there. Do you like have a score in mind of like that would be a good score today or is that --

CHRIS GOTTERUP: No, I really try to do the best job I can with how am I going to like make birdie on this hole or what do I need to do to give myself a good look on this hole. And obviously as you're playing the round you see some of the scores, so you're like all right,



maybe my lines need to come a little bit more towards the pins here.

I think going into today I knew I was going to be firing at a lot of pins just with how soft the course is. I don't think today was any change of strategy or anything just because of how -- I think everyone here that played golf today knew the scores were going to be pretty low today.

Q. What's it like playing with Cody Blick?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: He's entertaining, he's fun to play with.

