

SIMMONS BANK OPEN FOR THE SNEDEKER FOUNDATION

ROUND 1 QUOTES
September 14, 2023

PATRICK WELCH (-6)



Q. Patrick, opening up with seven birdies against one bogey, it's a heck of a start to the week. Just kind of talk us through your day.

PATRICK WELCH: Just birdied the first hole, got off to a good start. I think a couple holes in like I was making really good putts, so I just kind of figured just keep hitting greens and keep giving myself chances. I was lucky and fortunate enough to make a few coming down the back nine, especially after the bogey on 14. Overall, it was pretty solid all around.

Q. You mentioned your putting. Was that the key for you today or was everything just kind of clicking?

PATRICK WELCH: Everything was just kind of clicking. Hit my driver really well, hit my irons pretty solid and made some putts, and if I missed some greens, I scrambled pretty well as well. Everything clicked, and you try to take advantage of when that happens. It was good.

Q. Talk about taking advantage, I talked to you earlier in the week and you kind of know what these next three weeks are, what the situation is with Korn Ferry Tour Finals and all that, but how does it feel to play so well on this first day and putting yourself in position to have a good week?

PATRICK WELCH: You know, it's huge. The last tournament I played, I didn't play too great, missed the cut. I had two weeks off, and after a seven-week stretch, it was very well needed. I just kind of hit the reset.

Came into this course and this week with no expectations. Not trying to think about where I'm at on the standings or anything, just play my golf and, you know, whatever the score is is what it's going to be. It's already hard enough as it is, so just try and play well and see what happens.

Q. When you say you reset, what does that look like for you? Were you still playing and practicing, or how do you reset?

PATRICK WELCH: No, I was hanging out with a bunch of my OU teammates, hanging around Coach and stuff. I think I played like three or four times maybe in the two weeks with not playing for about eight, nine days in between. Right before I came here I kind of started



to practice up again and kind of get ready, because I know guys, you know, anyone can play really well out here. It's really hard. It was good.

Q. Talk us through this course. Normally we're seeing, you know, 10 under on the first day, 9 under. Just the low score of the morning was 4 under, so can you talk about the scores?

PATRICK WELCH: Yeah, I got out here Tuesday, I played nine and then I played nine yesterday on Wednesday. Just kind of walking around and hitting some shots and seeing how the greens were when they land, even putting, like I kind of figured the scores would be not as low as usual. I just figured just got to stay a little more patient and not get too frustrated if things don't go your way. It was just very patient golf, kind of everything just kind of fell together and it worked.

Q. How big was that T-12 in Wichita for you just with the status you had and being able to set up your season?

PATRICK WELCH: It was nice. The week before I think I shot like 66 and it was like top-15 and played well, then I had one bad hole and I missed the cut. It just happened so fast. I was a little disappointed.

But I was fortunate enough to get into the next one thanks to Adrien. Thank you, Adrien. Once that happened, I was super excited for that opportunity and I felt like my good golf was going to compete. Finishing 12th there was, especially my second start was really nice for me to kind of see and do, just kind of gave me momentum throughout the rest of the year. It's been nice.

Q. Came down to that Sunday when Adrien won and then all of a sudden your plans shift and change and OK, I'm in the field next week. Just kind of talk about that a little bit.

PATRICK WELCH: It was funny because my whole summer schedule I was supposed to be up at PGA TOUR Canada. I was fortunate enough to get into the BMW in South Carolina and I was super excited. Played well the first day and not so great the second, missed the cut. I just kind of felt hopeless in a way knowing I really wanted to keep staying on this tour and keep getting more events under my belt. Again, thank you, Adrien. Since that happened, it kind of bumped me into like the last spot. And then Ricky won, so the guy behind me got in. So everyone's been playing pretty well. Just extremely fortunate, and I've just tried to do my best.

Q. You mentioned that you want to stick to the Korn Ferry Tour and now you're in the Playoffs here in this part of the season. So at least are you proud of yourself in how far you've come?

PATRICK WELCH: Yeah, definitely. I honestly couldn't tell you what my goal was kind of at



the end of the year, I just wanted to play in as many tournaments as possible. I've made a decent amount of cuts and had some OK finishes, but I've also had some pretty decent finishes. Finishing third in New Jersey definitely helped to maybe jump up a lot of spots. If that didn't happen I'd be kind of -- it would be a totally different situation, but I'm glad I'm in this situation. I'm just trying to enjoy it and try and embrace it.

