

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 11, 2023

WOODY AUSTIN (-6)



Q. Where's this been?

WOODY AUSTIN: Been a bad year, Al. Bad year.

Q. Have you worked on anything, something different?

WOODY AUSTIN: Well, I've changed putting styles. This is the first week with a wrist lock putter grip and a big long -- I worked all three weeks at home. I've had the last three weeks off so I worked on that. Just been trying to see which putter heads feel the best and what have you. So that's been the only -- and I made a couple putts today. But I've always said, game's just about putting. I haven't played that great, but I've played decent lately, I just haven't made anything and today I made a few.

Q. So did you feel it coming over those few weeks of practice?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, I was very optimistic coming into this week the way things were going at home because I felt like the ball was rolling good this way. I felt like I was -- you know, had the potential to make some 10-footers and 12-footers and that's what I did today. I mean, I made one long putt, I don't know, might have been 20 feet maybe on 17. But other than that they were all, you know, 10-footers and in. And I hit the flag and almost holed it on 16, so that was only an inch. I had a couple tap-ins on par 5s and, you know, and I made a, I don't know, maybe another eight-footer on 7.

Q. But to come in here and lead after the first round, was that --

WOODY AUSTIN: No, no, I mean, obviously you don't know about that, but there was -- there's a couple things that are good about it. I played good here in the past. I lost in a playoff. I should have won in '21, had the lead going in the last day. I played good here even my first year.

So I've got good memories of this place as far as playing well, not winning but playing well, and then I felt like the practice at home was getting to that point. It's just a matter of staying healthy and making a couple putts and I made a couple today. The big difference, I just made a couple today.

Q. Obviously a couple of rounds to go, but to put yourself in position to win for the first time since now, what, 2018?

WOODY AUSTIN: A long time, yeah. I mean, again, that's what we're playing for, that's why

I'm playing. Going through a horrendous year this year and just hoping that at the end of the year something would show up. Today was a good start. I mean, it's just one day, but today was a good start.