

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
October 20, 2023

RICHARD GREEN (-5)



Q. Richard, a few delays but you got it done, 5 under on the round today, currently T-2. Just takeaways from Round 1?

RICHARD GREEN: Yeah, it was good. I played well early. Was a little frustrating when the rain came. It was pretty testing conditions for everybody and it was just a matter of hanging in while it was wet, try and do my best, but hit some great shots into the par 3s that saved me big time. It was good.

Q. A lot of golf left obviously, but heading into your first playoff appearance on PGA TOUR Champions, just how your year has been, just what has it ultimately meant to you? I know all you've wanted to do is win, but then knowing that you're going to be headed to Phoenix, just overall emotions on that?

RICHARD GREEN: Look, it was a goal of mine at the start of the year to run the top-36 and I think I've kind of got myself into that playing level, if you like, to compete in the top-30 guys on the Tour.

You know, as you go, you just try to reassess your goals as you go. My year's been good, I've played well. I had some really nice rounds of golf here and there and good results, so I'm pretty happy. A win would be great, but they're tough to get out here. I'm going to have to work very hard.

Q. Go back to today, you said that that rain delay, that was frustrating. Were you on that kind of a roll? Did you want to come in?

RICHARD GREEN: No, I was, I was playing pretty nicely. It's just enough to unsettle you and change your focus a little bit in those conditions. Just more difficult. So I was -- I did my best to hang in there and did for the most part. The par 3s like 14, 17, tough shots in the rain. Was pleased to get through them.

Q. Playing here for the first time, what is it about this golf course that fits your eye?

RICHARD GREEN: The greens are beautiful. They're very much what I grew up on in Australia. And fast, very smooth, fast greens. I like the slope of the greens, the layout of the golf course is really nice, just suits my game. And I think also you've got to be striking your irons very well around here and I'm doing that.

Q. You were grinding the last few days on the range. Is that what you were working on?

RICHARD GREEN: Yeah, absolutely, yeah. Yeah, I always do, always do. Doesn't matter where I am, I'm trying to get those iron shots just how I want them to be.

Putting as well. This is where I need my putting to be good. We come from a lot of different conditions through the year and different grasses and whatever, and you get back on good grass that I grew up on, I've got to get used to that quick again. But I putted well today, so I was happy.

Q. We heard a few guys talk about how fast the greens are and kind of getting used to that. With the addition of the water here and the rain, what was that transition period like for you to kind of relearn how these greens are going to react with the water involved?

RICHARD GREEN: It's always a bit of guesswork. You can only give it your best bit of judgment on how much it slowed up the speed of the greens, and it certainly did slow up the greens a bit. You know, you've just got to keep focused on what you're trying to do and leave the ball where you're not leaving yourself too difficult a putt. I fortunately did that pretty much from the moment the rain started to the end of the round. It was pretty safe golf really.