

COLLIN MORIKAWA

Q. You talked to Tom Abbott yesterday and you said that you needed to get off to a good start today. You went out in 30, so talk about how much that propelled you today.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I definitely thought about it the first two holes, missed those two short putts for birdie. Look, the game felt really good. Knowing that I was two back and just wanting to give yourself a chance with nine holes left, everything just kind of clicked, and we were able to not make any errors really, make the par putts when needed, and it was nice to finish off that front nine with a birdie on 8 and 9.

Q. Eleven under this weekend, 67-63. You started 3 over through four holes, so it was an incredible run once you got to the fifth tee. How much is that just confidence and just getting things rolling?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, it's a cliche, but you really have to take it one shot at a time. I can go back to numerous rounds where you think about other things, your mind starts to wander. But look, it was almost nice to not have leaderboards start on hole 9 all the way to 15. I just wanted to keep making birdies. The goal was to get at least three birdies on that back nine. And we were just keeping it steady. That's what you have to do when you have that kind of build through nine holes.

Q. You're one of the best ball-strikers on the Tour, but this could be one of the best putting performances. What caused that?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: You know, J.J. and I were grinding for maybe two and a half hours Wednesday afternoon after our pro-am just trying to figure out things on how to read these greens, how to get just a little more consistent, take out a few variables.

Texted a couple buddies just on certain little things. It's nice when things click like that. Even the ones that were missing were good putts, they were great looks. Just got to a point today where it was like I put good speed on it and the ball's going to have a great chance of going in the hole.

Q. Us in the media talked about the drought, it's been seven months since The Open Championship, a little less than two years since the win at the DP World. How significant is this and winning in this country?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I can't even explain it. I knew I was going to get here at some point, but it's like getting your first win, your first major, whatever.

They start asking questions, they start asking the why, and I had to really look back and ask myself what's wrong, right? What's the why? What's the reasoning behind finishing second or fifth versus a win?

This win means the world. My wife's out here. She hasn't been to one in a while. I have the team out here. Just to be in Japan, obviously being half Japanese, a lot has come through over the past week. We've had an amazing time so far and we're going to go enjoy our two weeks vacation after this.