

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
September 16, 2023

MATT KUCHAR (-14)



Q. Maybe just some opening comments from the round? How did it go out there for you today?

MATT KUCHAR: It was really good, steady golf. It's been fun. I got off to a funny start on Thursday with a triple bogey on my second hole of the day and then bounced back really quickly, an eagle and a birdie following two holes and then a double. My golf's normally not like that. My golf is normally pretty steady, it's pretty good at bogey avoidance, certainly good at double and triple bogey avoidance. But I was able to turn that into a solid round of 2 under. The games's kind of been good and I've been able to avoid more bogeys and certainly avoid the doubles and triples on Rounds 2 and 3.

Q. Obviously this season prior to the -- kind of locking your spot in the Playoffs, you're still seeking that exemption for next year to lock in at least with your play. You have that now. Does that free you up in a week like this where you're not one of these guys that's really chasing status, maybe you're chasing a win or something else?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, yeah. I don't know about freeing up. It's just a time, it's a unique time to figure out where everybody stands in the game of golf. I think I finished 66th on the points list and so with that, trying to get inside the top 60 to get a couple exemptions into the elevated events.

But listen, I love playing, love having a chance to compete. Being out here at Silverado's a fantastic resort, fantastic golf course. This is one that regardless of where on the schedule it is I'm likely to find myself here.

Q. Matt, what do you find about this golf course that really suits your style of play? It's a shorter course, it's got some old-school type holes to it, but why do you feel this golf course suits your game, fits your game?

MATT KUCHAR: I feel like driving the ball is a strength of mine, at least finding fairways, and out here that's a critical deal. This course is playing firm and fast and when it's that way, stopping the ball on the green, trying to get a ball to stop close to a hole is tough. If you're trying to do that from the rough, it gets really hard. So you want to be in the fairway with a chance. If you do drive it in the fairway, it tends to be some shorter irons. I think that tends to be one of my strengths. So trying to find fairways and try to score with some shorter irons are two things I think I do well.

Q. What would it mean tomorrow, Matt, to come out and get to that top of the leaderboard in a crowded tournament right now?

MATT KUCHAR: Listen, it's an exciting place to be. Certainly a great leaderboard, some really good names up there at the top. I'm thrilled to be part of those names and looking forward to having some fun out there. Listen, this is kind of why we all play, you want to have a chance come Sunday and golf gets a lot more fun when you've got a chance to win a tournament on Sunday.

Q. Matt, talk about some of the adjustments you've made coming into this tournament with your putting game.

MATT KUCHAR: Everything's kind of feeling pretty good. I put in some great work with my coach, Chris O'Connell. I feel as confident as I've been in a while of kind of understanding my swing and understanding what I'm trying to do to hit the shots I want to hit.

And then the putter's been working well this week, too. And shout out to Gary Woodland. I went down to see him last week, kind of check in and see the kids. We started talking shop, talking golf and he shared with me some of the things he's been working on with his putting. I got out to the putting green here on Tuesday and gave it a try and thought, holy cow, that actually works for me, too. So big thanks to Gary because I've certainly done well with the putter in my hand this week.

Q. Obviously you just like getting out and playing, that's obvious, but what gets you practicing every day, working hard? Like is it just a love of the game?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, golf I've got the golf bug, for sure. Like when the game is good, I love to play. It's fun to play when you feel like you're in control. When you're not playing well, I can't wait to go fix it. So it's kind of got me on both sides.

I'm fortunate, I've got two boys, 14 and 15, who both love the game of golf, so I get to spend a lot of time with them. There are times when I think, God, after a long stretch on Tour, I'd like to put the clubs away for a little bit, but they're eager to go play and eager to get me out with them. So all of a sudden the switch flips, absolutely, I'll certainly go play and go hang with the boys.

Q. Matt, you talked about being able to be more aggressive when you're hitting the fairways. After the first couple rounds, how did it feel to be back in that aggressive attacking mode today?

MATT KUCHAR: I think there's certain appropriate shots to be played depending on the situation you put yourself in. It's a lot nicer to be in the fairways where you do feel like you can be aggressive. If you're in the rough there's certain times where you may get a chance where your angle is good, the pin is in a location where you think you can be maybe a little bit more aggressive from the rough, but for the most part it requires you around here to be in the fairway to be aggressive and I found a lot of fairways today thankfully.

Q. How's it feel today looking at the scoreboard and seeing your name up top?

MATT KUCHAR: Listen, it makes golf exciting. It certainly is a fun place to be. I'm really looking forward to tomorrow as well.