

East Lake Cup Men – Match Play Round 2
November 1, 2023

MATTHEW KRESS
Florida



Q. Matt, that was tight most of the way, a little surprised that it ended in a tie maybe with the consolation matches, but overall takeaways from today?

MATTHEW KRESS: Yeah, I played Bartley at the national finals last year and I didn't have my best stuff against him last year and he got the better of me. Kind of the same way today.

It was a pretty brutal start. It was really cold and pretty windy towards the beginning, and then towards the end I kind of got into my own. Yeah, I think we both played pretty solid on the back nine, kind of just like really steady matching each other shot for shot.

Yeah, kind of sucks we don't get to play extra holes. Yeah, I don't have many regrets or many things I could take back. On the back nine we both played pretty solid and probably needed more than 18 holes to get a winner today.

Q. What changes when it's cold and windy? It's a 40-degree difference from when we started the week. How do you alter your approach?

MATTHEW KRESS: You've got to pack on some good clothes, first of all. Yeah, the biggest thing my dad always told me, my coaches always tell me, like everybody's playing the same conditions. Like your hands are going to be cold, the ball's not going to go that far, it's going to be tough, you're going to probably have some holes with bogeys. Just getting your mind around that.

I mean, it was playing pretty hard today. On the front nine there were some long iron shots with hands that weren't completely warm. It's just a mental like shift. Before we just expect that it's going to be a lot harder and a lot more uncomfortable.

Q. You're one of the younger guys here on your team. How vital is it to get this kind of experience and these reps in the fall when you know it's what you'll see at the National Championship in the spring?

MATTHEW KRESS: Yeah, this is huge, especially I got a little taste of it last year at the conference championships at Sea Island and then obviously at Grayhawk. It's just a little bit different when the cameras start rolling and people are watching. You just start doing a little bit different things that you normally wouldn't do if you're just playing even a normal tournament. I just feel it's a little bit different.

So this is exactly what I think I know what to expect towards the end in April and June. It's



just great experience to just get a little taste of what's coming in the postseason when it really actually matters for the big boy trophies.

Q. You guys are defending that big boy trophy going into the spring now. What is the mindset and motivation for this team as we head into the home stretch of the season?

MATTHEW KRESS: We obviously got to get a lot better. I think we have a good team, we have a lot of talent on the team, we just don't have a lot of experience like we had last year. Like we had just those three guys in the lineup who had a lot of experience not only like playing college golf, but playing big-time tournaments and playing big-time golf courses. I think that's what this team needs.

But luckily in Gainesville we've probably got some of the best weather in the country, so there's really no excuse to not just beat golf balls all offseason. I think that's exactly what we're going to do.

We've found glimpses of it, for sure. JC was talking about it last night, we haven't quite got all five guys playing well on the same day. I think if we do that, we're pretty dangerous. We've got a lot of talent, we just need to clean up a little bit of things.

