

THE BAHAMAS GREAT ABACO CLASSIC

ROUND 2 QUOTES

January 22, 2024



ROSS STEELMAN (-5)

Q. All right, Ross, 1 under today, right now you're top of the leaderboard. How are you feeling after 36 holes here?

ROSS STEELMAN: Feeling like I'm ready to go take a nap and get out of the wind.

Yeah, no, I feel good, I'm playing well. Just trying to hang on for dear life out there. It's blowing really hard and sometimes you have no clue where it's going to finish until it stops rolling.

Q. Back-to-back weeks now with kind of windier conditions down here. How used to I guess these types of weather conditions are you?

ROSS STEELMAN: I love playing in the wind. I grew up -- Missouri's really, really windy. Especially kind of in the winter months, it blows 15 to 20 most days. So a phrase I like to think of is you have to pitch instead of throw. So you kind of have to work shots against it, work it with it and just kind of make a game out of it even more so than it already is. So I just try to have fun and kind of see where it goes sometimes.

Q. Speaking of having fun, I know you said last summer was a little bit of a struggle, but coming off of solo third last week, got to be feeling pretty good especially this early in the season?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yeah, for sure. I mean, anytime you're contending in tournaments on whatever level it happens to be -- college, Korn Ferry, PGA TOUR, majors -- like whatever tournaments you're playing in you're trying to do as best you can and ultimately win. It's a lot of fun to come out of the gates well and hoping to keep it going.

Q. Do you feel more settled? I know it's only the second event of the year, but I know it was probably a rush last year and now you had the offseason to get in. Do you feel much more like you belong and settled?

ROSS STEELMAN: Yes, much more comfortable just from showing up and knowing more people, especially going from being a senior in college and knowing everybody that I'm playing with to all of a sudden I've met maybe five to 10 people out here and there's just so many new experiences from the time I turned pro last year until really Q-School.

Now that I've kind of got some experience under the belt, it's been a lot more comfortable



this year so far.

Q. Switching gears a little bit, with Nick Dunlap winning yesterday, are you buddies with him? I know I probably should have checked beforehand, but do you know him well? Have you played with him?

ROSS STEELMAN: I've played with him. I shot -- the last time I played with him I shot 80 and he won the tournament.

Yeah, no, he's an incredible player, really good guy, couldn't be happier for him. As a recent amateur, recently turned pro from amateur golf, that's incredible what he's done, the stretch from winning the Northeast Amateur this summer to the U.S. Am to the Walker Cup and now winning on the PGA TOUR. And I think he vaulted into the top-100 in the world; is that right?

Q. Yeah.

ROSS STEELMAN: That's incredible. Couldn't be more excited for him. That's awesome.

Q. You had the lip-outs on 3 and 4, you came back and you hit it to 15 feet on 5. How do you get yourself through those short lip-outs to then recover to hit a shot like that and finish strong?

ROSS STEELMAN: Golf's a weird game. I just, I try to look out the windshield, not the rearview mirror. If you look back, you're just going to drive yourself crazy. The only thing you can do is move on to the next shot and be where your feet are. To borrow from Ted Lasso, you just have to be a goldfish and just let it go.

It's really windy, it's really hard. You're going to miss putts that you'd rather make and the quicker you can let it go, the easier it is to move on and play well going forward.

