

LECOM Suncoast Classic

ROUND 1 QUOTES

April 18, 2024



MASON ANDERSEN (-9)

Q. Mason, so 62, awesome way to start the tournament. What was clicking today?

MASON ANDERSEN: You know, kind of -- wasn't kind of in full control with the irons and wedges, but made a lot of putts, made a lot of putts. Yeah, putter saved me.

Q. Did you change anything with your putting into the week?

MASON ANDERSEN: Nope, no. I've always considered myself to be a pretty good putter. Yeah, today was just, that was good putting, it was crazy.

Q. Is that like the key overall to your year so far is better putting compared to last year, or what would you say the --

MASON ANDERSEN: No. Actually I'm hitting the ball better than I did last year. Ball-striking's always been kind of like hit and miss for me, so if I can hit it well on any given week, I can shoot good scores.

Q. What was the -- you mentioned in your winner's interview in Argentina you felt like last year you weren't ready for the PGA TOUR. Why do you think that was, that you weren't ready last year and you are ready now?

MASON ANDERSEN: I don't know, I just -- I feel like there's, you know, a plan in place for all of us and it just wasn't my time yet. Hopefully, now is the time.

Q. What was the -- how would you keep from like letting that get you down, because you were close in the final weekend of the season, came up just a little bit short. Rather than go wallow in that, you came out fighting.

MASON ANDERSEN: You mean at Victoria National?

Q. Yeah.

MASON ANDERSEN: I don't know. For a rookie season, how many guys get their PGA TOUR card? I came from the Dakotas Tour, I was playing the Dakotas before the Korn Ferry. Looking back on it, it was a great learning experience and I actually exceeded what I thought I was going to do.



Q. Overall, how do you describe your kind of golf game, I guess your swing and the way you approach the game?

MASON ANDERSEN: I'm not the longest, not particularly the straightest, but I think if you can get the ball around in the right spots, not short-siding yourself and have a decent short game, you can still manage your way around things even when it goes bad for you.

Q. Do you feel less pressure out here having won? Do you feel any different or do you feel pretty much the same?

MASON ANDERSEN: I think if anything probably about the same. You could say I have less pressure because I won, but also more pressure now because I expect myself to do the same thing over again.

Q. What was like -- you get on that heater in the middle of the round today, you have six birdies in a row and then like at that point do you start thinking about how many birdies in a row you've made? Like is there a mental counter in the back or is it just one shot at a time?

MASON ANDERSEN: I think you just do the best you can on every shot, yeah. I've gotten a lot better about that, too. Mentally gotten a lot better from last year, for sure.

Q. How have you been able to do that?

MASON ANDERSEN: Started working with a sports psychologist, started just being a little bit -- having a little bit more belief in myself, not getting so I'd say like up, you know, not getting so high, not having those expectations of you should birdie every hole and just doing the best I can with every shot kind of mindset.

Q. Who are you working with?

MASON ANDERSEN: I'm working with a guy, Jeff Becker. He's in Arizona. He works with basketball players, but I'm an exception.

Q. How did you get connected with him?

MASON ANDERSEN: Matt McCarty.

Q. You said last year it didn't feel like your time. Do you get the sense of this year could be?

MASON ANDERSEN: Yeah, this year I'll get a PGA TOUR card, for sure.

Q. Did you feel that before your win or is it kind of the result of your win?



MASON ANDERSEN: Before, for sure. At the beginning of the season it was like -- it's just different. You know, rookie season, you don't really know what to expect, you don't really know what you're getting into. I think like you've seen the courses, you've kind of got the hang of things, you know you've got travel planned and everything. Then the second year you show up and it's like, well, I know what I'm doing now.

Q. As play was kind of concluding in Argentina, did you just kind of remind yourself that you believe this is your time?

MASON ANDERSEN: Yeah, yeah, it's just simple like that, yeah. I mean, like if you got an opportunity, you try not to miss it, but there's going to be more opportunities. It's kind of like -- for me it's always been a balance of pressure. I love pressure, but immense pressure, self inflicted, not like a huge fan of that. I don't really play well when that happens. I just try to do the best I can on every shot.

Q. Is there a new strategy that you've implemented from the coaches you've been working with that's really helped in particular?

MASON ANDERSEN: Just doing the same stuff probably more regularly now, not as sporadic. Just more a routine, communicating more with my swing coach, communicating more with my sports psych, you know, trying to eat right, which has been terrible this year. Yeah, I mean, just stuff like that. As long as you can stay consistent, yeah, it will pay off.

