

LECOM Suncoast Classic

ROUND 3 QUOTES

April 20, 2024



PATRICK COVER (-18)

Q. Patrick, 8 under today, great round, especially with the 28 on the front nine. What was working well for you out there?

PATRICK COVER: Yeah, everything was going pretty well on the front. Put myself in the fairway a lot and it seemed that I was just leaving myself with not easy putts, but putts where I could get a really good read on it and I had really good feeling standing over the ball knowing that it was going to go in. Yeah, just really solid front nine.

Back nine, a little bit more grinding. Had a couple really good par saves. Yeah, but overall, really happy with the score and really happy with how I kept it together on the back.

Q. Did you kind of have an idea of where you were exactly at as you were making the turn? Was 59 in your head at all or just kind of keep things rolling when you made the turn?

PATRICK COVER: I knew I shot 28 and that's kind of easy. It's out there, it's in your head a little bit. Definitely like more worried about the golf tournament than the 59, but it was out there. I knew that if I could shoot 30 or 31, it would be something in the 50s. I was definitely trying to, it didn't end up even coming close. Sometimes it goes that way, but it was really cool to shoot a sub30 round. I'm not sure I've done that out here on the Korn Ferry.

Q. Do you feel on the back at all like pressing more once you know the birdies -- just some more pars. Do you feel like you're pressing or are you just kind of letting it still come to you?

PATRICK COVER: Definitely just letting it come. Same as the front, I wasn't pressing on the front, I just happened to hit some really, really good shots, played smart and gave myself a good look hole after hole.

So definitely not pressing more on the back, but it just came so much easier on the front nine for whatever reason. Maybe the setup was a little bit harder on the back nine, I'm not sure if the scores were higher back there, but there's probably a couple more difficult shots back there where pars are -- you kind of take your par and kind of go onto the next one, where on the front there's a lot of holes where you're trying to make birdie.

Q. You've put up some good rounds out here, you held the 18-hole lead to start last year. Was there something about this course that fits your eye or that you like about



it?

PATRICK COVER: Yeah, I do like this golf course. I've played it, this is my third year playing this tournament and I played it a couple of times just for fun. I've been like in the area and asked if I could come out and play it.

So I know the course well. I really like how it let's you play your game. There's not very many forced shots. There's no holes that tell you you have to hit a draw or you have to hit a fade, you can kind of hit your shot at a target and it gives you room on both sides. It's not the most demanding golf course off the tee, but it will penalize you for a big miss.

I do, I really like the course and I really like the greens.

Q. With a handful of starts this year, a couple made cuts, a couple missed cuts, just how have you felt about your game up to this point in the season?

PATRICK COVER: Yeah, it's been interesting the first few tournaments. I've definitely had a lot of good rounds, but then I've tended to follow them up with average or (inaudible), so those are the ones that led to missed cuts.

But it's golf, it's not easy, especially when the scores are as low as they are. If you have just one little part of your game that's off, you know, you don't really gain much ground out here with 71s and 70s and 72s, you have to stay shooting in the 60s week in and week out. It's just been a little up and down, but I feel like I've kind of hit my stride here.

Q. And what would be the game plan heading into tomorrow?

PATRICK COVER: Kind of cliché, but the same thing, just keep trying to play smart golf. I'm putting really, really well, so just trying to give myself as many looks as possible, not trying to force it. I've made a lot of 15-footers, so I think if I can give myself a lot of putts inside 15, 20 feet, I'll have a good shot.

Q. How do you manage nerves when you kind of go to bed with the lead, you know?

PATRICK COVER: Yeah, so that's going to be new. I've been in contention before, it's similar. I don't think it's going to be much different, but it is difficult, something that I've struggled with, more so with going to sleep after finishing an afternoon round and waking up really early for a morning round even if I don't play that well. It's worse if I play well, but setting a 4:00 alarm like I did on Friday, it's kind of tough to like get to sleep early enough to get your rest for that and you aren't falling asleep, then you start getting mad at yourself for not falling asleep. That's been something that I haven't really figured out yet, but going to have to because early tee times, you're going to have that.

Q. And then what do you think you're going to be feeling on the first tee tomorrow?



PATRICK COVER: Probably feeling some nerves, already accepted that. I always feel nerves on the first hole, whether it's first round or last round. It's not going to be totally different. I'm used to being a little bit nervous on the first hole, but I'm looking forward to it, trying to embrace it.

Q. Did you have any goals coming into this week?

PATRICK COVER: Yeah, obviously top-30 is a goal. Winning a tournament was a goal, but just really to keep improving on my game. s.

