

## 69<sup>TH</sup> ECP BRAZIL OPEN

### ROUND 4 QUOTES

April 21, 2024

MATTHEW ANDERSON ( -16)



**Q. Matt, a gutsy final round to get your first win. What was your game plan going into today and how would you say you executed?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** Well, my game plan going into today was to make good swings, make the best swings that I can and whatever happens after that is out of my control. So I would say that I did that pretty well today.

In terms of course execution, yeah, it was maybe a little bit squirrely in some spots and loose iron shots and that stuff, but like to win, you don't have to play perfect golf. My coach, Alf, told me that and I just tried to remember that out there. I guess going in with the lead, you just have the ability to make a couple mistakes and still be OK, so I knew that. I knew that I had kind of a couple mistakes on the front nine, a few bogeys, I was going to be fine.

Yeah, but honestly though, I was just trying to go out and make the best swings that I could and I would say I executed that plan, what I could control, very well today.

**Q. You mentioned that it was a little choppy out there today at times, but you made birdies when you needed to and got up and down when you needed to. Was there a point in the round where you felt like you were in control and were righting the ship?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** I would say after I got to 16 under after hole 10 for the first time and I really at that point, I was really cruising. I was, again, making good swings. I feel I had really good control of my golf ball and just made like a couple kind of off swings on the middle of the back nine. That kind of happens. But even after that I still kind of had full faith in my ability to finish strong and get it done at the end.

**Q. You had some friends and Golf Canada teammates and your coach here watching you seal it on 18. What was that like having them there, supporting you and being able to get your first professional win in front of them?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** So cool, so cool. Like Ben Waugh, who was following me, the assistant coach of Team Canada, he came all the way from Montreal. For him to follow me, and he's been with me for a few years now and he's seen some of the ups and downs, and like for him to kind of witness this is so cool. My friends as well, like when the ball went in, like I looked over at the group of them, right? That's kind of who -- and I felt it, I felt -- Johnny and Ben were following me on the back nine and I really felt the support. My first inkling was to look at them.



**Q. What does Coach Waugh's coaching and mentorship to you?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** It's been a lot. He talks with my personal coach, my swing coach, Alf, who lives out in Edmonton and they do a really, really good job of communicating and he does a really good job at providing additional information wherever he can. Wherever he can find value, whether it's routines or scheduling or practice or kind of weaker areas and how to get them better, he does a really good job of that, so I'm very grateful for his help.

**Q. When did you start working with Coach Alf?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** With Alf, I've been here -- Alf, my personal coach, I've been with since I was 13, so 11 years.

**Q. And what has working with him meant to you in being able to break through here? What does that say about his coaching and your guys' path?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** Well, his message to me has always been like you're going to play on the PGA TOUR and that's been kind of the same since I was kind of in my first or second year of college.

And like from where I came from when I was like 13 to where I am now is kind of crazy to look back on. Like he's been one of the most -- for sure one of the most important parts of my team to get me where I am today.

**Q. You mentioned your friend Owen in the awards ceremony. When did you guys become friends and what did he say to you to encourage you to keep going?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** We became friends -- we grew up playing golf together and he's someone who I talk to a lot. So, yeah, because he grew up playing golf, he stopped, he has just a regular job in Toronto now, but he still understands golf and he cares a lot about my success and I really feel that.

I mean, yeah, over the winter or over fall I was struggling a little bit kind of closing the Canada season and Korn Ferry Q-School didn't go the way that I thought it would, and going home it was kind of like a long break like before, you know, this tour started up again in March. You know, he just kind of really pushed me to like do more than I would, like put more work in than -- put more work in than anybody else and the results will show.

Yeah, it's been five months, but I'd like to think that what he told me and what I did over the break had a lot to do with why I'm standing here.

**Q. And you mentioned Johnny as well. What has his support and you guys going through this together, what has that been like and how have you guys gotten closer and how has it helped you come out here and play your best?**



**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** We've been friends since we were -- I shouldn't say friends, but we've known each other since we were 8, we played junior golf together. Since we turned pro, we've just been traveling a lot more together. Like we've been part of the national team, but we've been on opposite coasts. Like in school we wouldn't really spend a lot of time, but now since we've turned pro we've just done a lot of the travel together. So I've gotten to know him really well, and to come down here to like a very foreign place, Latin America, somewhere I've never been before and a little bit different culturally than North America, he's been someone who's like really awesome to travel with and to kind of have a familiar face when you're kind of going through a little bit of unknowns.

**Q. Going back to your round after back-to-back birdies on 9 and 10, you seemed to be back in control, it was a little bit of a rollercoaster, but then a couple of bogeys. Take us through your mindset heading into the back nine and how were you able to handle those two bogeys to close out afterwards?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** I think after the front nine, yeah, I was 1 under after the front nine, so that drive on 10 was a big one.

Yeah, you're nervous, but I'm just trying to step up and like make the best swing that I can. I hit a good drive there and ended up making birdie. Even through those bogeys, like my mindset doesn't change, I'm just trying to hit the best shot that I can. Sometimes it doesn't go the way you want it to and it is what it is. Like what are you going to do about it, you've just got to move on and continue to play your ball from there.

Yeah, I made those couple bogeys, kind of a tough break on 14. Just kind of stuff that you can't really control, so you move on and you just keep going.

**Q. A birdie-birdie finish to win by one, it's kind of the dream of getting the win?**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** Yeah, it's cool. I really had some visualizations earlier in the week of kind of getting it done on 18. The putt maybe ranged from like 4 to 10 feet, I don't know what I had in my head, but yeah, it was really what I was visualizing, just the putt. You want that, a putt to win, and you execute and there's like no better feeling.

**Q. Take us through your last two birdies, the club you hit, distances.**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** Yeah, so 17 they moved the tee way up and had the pin right over the bunker, so it was playing 102 yards. Kind of a really cool hole for a 17th hole. I just took my 56, it was just a three-quarter. I was playing it 103. There was a little bit of wind in off the right and it landed like just pin high and bounced forward and spun left just exactly really how I would draw it up. Tapped in the birdie.

And then going into 18 I asked Johnny for the leaderboard and I knew that 15 was clubhouse and someone might get to 16, so I figured I need a 4. Just going to try and make



a good swing and hit the drive in the fairway and just trying to hit -- I had 258. I was trying to hit like a low cut 3-iron up the left side of the green and just pulled it a hair and it didn't cut, just kind of bounded over the left. So I had about 35 yards of a pitch back down the green. I executed that really well, just flew a little bit further than I wanted it to, went 8 feet long. I saw Brandon's putt from the other side, how it kind of curled in, and mine was kind of right at the start, left at the end, so I knew it was going left overall but I had a good feel for it. Yeah, I was nervous, but I was trying to just make a good roll and that's what I did, it was a good roll and it kind of went in the left side.

**Q. Tell us about the reaction there.**

**MATTHEW ANDERSON:** Just kind of very, very natural, I guess. Whenever you make a putt that means something, you're going to show some emotion even though I guess I didn't really show a lot during the round. It was kind of a similar feel to like when I won (indiscernible) regionals, I made like a 20-footer to get a win. It's just like very calm. I don't know, you kind of lose bodily control, you just kind of let everything out. It was kind of a similar thing, I just kind of let it out and it just happened. Yeah, it's really cool.

