

ROUND 1 QUOTES
May 9, 2024

COLLIN MORIKAWA (-4)



Q. Collin, are you pleased with your opening round today?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah. You know, unfortunate to just kind of give away on the last hole. It was a long day, and for the most part felt really good and gave myself some chances, made some putts and kept it really simple out there.

Q. What did you feel like you did the best today?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Just throughout the entire bag, I put myself into a lot of fairways out there. Even though it's soggy and you're going to have a lot of long irons, just kind of kept the ball in front of me and didn't really miss it in spots where it was frustrating. Like I said, kept it very simple.

Q. Dan Rapaport tweeted that you and Rick got back together. When did that happen and what has it brought to your game?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: We started talking a few days right before San Antonio, so that stretch of San Antonio, Augusta, RBC, I was talking to him every other day, every few days.

Look, it was great with Mark and Mark provided a lot of insight and just a lot of knowledge, but what I've learned about my game is by Thursday I just kind of have to get that all out of my head and sometimes that's hard when you have a certain swing thought. And that's what Rick knows how to do really, really well for me is just to be ready on Thursday on that first tee to just go and play golf. It's been good. Obviously the results have been nice, but I'm just kind of -- I know the golf is still in there, it's just being able to get away those layers that I've built up over the past couple years of kind of scar tissue of seeing the bad shots and then just trusting the game again.

Q. Going and playing on Thursday, is that because of Rick's work like on the mental side or because of going back to something so familiar?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's a little bit of both. I mean, I think that's what Rick has always taught me is no matter how we've -- we've had different swing thoughts, we've felt different in many of our successful tournaments, but it's just a little bit of both. I think for me to continue to play well and to continue to do what I want to do, by Thursday you have to free up and you have to be able to just be ready to play some golf.

Q. Is that just a good feeling that you have with Rick just being able to take it onto the golf course?



COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, it's very nice. Sometimes you need a search and that's what I thought I had to do. I went down that path and it was fine for a little bit. Just having a sense of that old, it is really, really nice to have him back, back of the campus actually.

Q. Do you feel like the stretch you've had now, Augusta, RBC and now (inaudible), do you feel like that's (inaudible)?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I hope so. I've seen spurts here and there throughout the past few years. I want to go on a run essentially, right? You want to go on a nice stretch of golf. So it was nice to obviously have that finish at the Masters even though it didn't play out the way I wanted, but knowing that this week is going to be great prep especially going into next week, just got to dial in everything as much as we can and be ready.

Q. You talked over the years, you find a key on a Monday, a key for a big week. Are you like finding less of those like little feels for the week now and more --

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, I mean, I've always gone through -- I think my entire career I go through these little feels working Monday through Tuesday. Nothing crazy, but it's stuff I might have worked on in the off week to just bring it out in a practice round. It's different playing at home. Home, you do a lot of work, but it's also nice to see the results on a Monday, Tuesday, from a round and say OK, just go out and play golf.

And that's what's kind of nice is I'm bringing that in based on what I'm doing at home into the Monday, Tuesday practice rounds and just kind of freeing up by Thursday.

Q. Is there a shot today that you hit that kind of exemplifies that different feeling on the golf course or this feeling on the course allowed you to hit?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: To be honest, I don't think I really missed many iron shots left today, which was great. I kind of hit them all where I wanted. So for the most part it was just I can look at a lot of my iron shots, to be honest, and say OK, these were quality iron shots. And if I did miss it, they were all missed in the right spot, our distance was correct, and that's what I haven't seen for a while. That was nice, especially on greens that yes, they've softened up, but for the most part they're on the firmer end.

Q. Collin, you mentioned your own performance in the Masters recently. To have an event like that and then to be able to come here to Quail Hollow every year, how much does that have the significance of this event and make the Wells Fargo Championship what it is?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, this is only my second year playing here. I've heard great things, and we're treated really, really well ourselves, the caddies included and the family included. It's been an awesome time.



Obviously last year I didn't play well, so hopefully this year we can kind of turn the ship and head down the right direction, and thankfully it was nice to get off to a decent start today.

Q. What do you think makes Quail Hollow just such a unique course?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's a big boy's golf course. It is very, very tough off the tee, even the fairways on the wider end of what we might see, but with the new greens, with the firm greens, you've got to be able to hit your spots and you've got to be able to really score with your mid to long irons, especially for a guy like me.

Q. (Inaudible) shot today?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Eighteen was really, really good.

