

**BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS
WICHITA OPEN
BENEFITTING KU WICHITA PEDIATRICS**

**ROUND 2 QUOTES
June 14, 2024**



SAM STEVENS. (-11)

Q. Sam, obviously playing really well right now through 36 holes. How does it feel to be performing well and not only that, but obviously in your home event?

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, yeah, I've played solidly the whole tournament. I honestly, yesterday I drove the ball beautifully and didn't feel like I got a whole lot out of my round and then today I got a lot out of my round for the most part.

Yeah, obviously a little disappointed with the way I finished on 18, but I had plenty of good bounces and shots that went my way. That's what happens, it all kind of comes back to even with the good breaks and the bad breaks. Not going to beat myself up too much about that, just get ready for tomorrow.

Q. It's pretty easy to notice you on the golf course right now because it feels like there's 30, 40, 50 people following you around. What's that been like?

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, it's been a lot of fun. Obviously I'm a member here at Crestview and there were a lot of familiar faces out there, not only members but a lot of members are out there, fans -- or friends and family as well. I had a good time. Yeah, kind of it would be easy I think playing my home course this week to kind of not be as locked in just because I'm so used to playing out here, but with the people out there it feels a little more like a tournament and kind of keeps me focused.

Q. Where does today's round kind of sit amongst the best you've ever played here?

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, if I parred 18 I would have said it was probably one of my better rounds. I shot 59 a few years ago out here, but yeah, I mean, the start today, I birdied the first six holes and No. 6 they're playing as a par 4, normally that's a par 5. That was the best start I ever had for sure. Hopefully I can do that tomorrow.

But yeah, it's a lot of fun to play well in a tournament, is definitely different than just playing well on a Friday afternoon with your buddies. Yeah, it was fun, it was definitely one of my better rounds.

Q. How do you lock in for the weekend?



SAM STEVENS: Yeah, just keep doing the same thing. This week is as much of a free roll as I can have, just get to come out here and play my home event. There's obviously pressure, you want to play well, you want to win, but I'm not going to have too high of expectations. Just go out there and play as hard as I can, try and get everything out of my round that I can. That's why I'm a little upset with the way I finished on 18. Honestly, not too nervous, just kind of hit some bad shots and that's what happens in golf, you hit it bad, make bad scores.

Q. On 17 after the drive you had your son cheering you on right behind you. How cool is that?

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, yeah. So he doesn't get to watch me a whole lot, you know, I'm on the road a ton. So my wife, she left a little early to go pick him up and bring him out here. He couldn't handle more than a couple holes. Yeah, it was cool to see him back there. Yeah, after 18 he came up and gave me a big hug. He knows that circles are good and squares are bad in golf, so I was glad I was able to make a few circles for him today.

Q. I just want to ask about 16. You hit that drive off to the right and then it looked like you were really trying to determine whether you wanted to try and hit 60 over that tree. Take us through that thought process and what went on with that.

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, it's funny, I hit a horrible drive, but it hit the cart path and ended up in a worst spot. I hit the cart path on the first hole of the day and me and my caddie were laughing, said the cart path giveth and the cart path taketh away.

I thought maybe if I could flop it up over the tree, I didn't think I could get it to the green but could maybe leave myself a little easier third shot if I could kind of have the whole length of the green to work with. We just decided that was probably a little too much risk, and when you get in a bad spot like that, just trying to minimize the damage if you can. I was just trying to pitch it out to the fairway and then I didn't pitch it out to the fairway, so now I'm like, well, I should have just gone for the hero shot. But I ended up making like a 15- or 20-footer there for par, so it all worked out in the end.

