

MEMORIAL HEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 PRESS CONFERENCE

June 27, 2024



RYAN GERARD

Q. Ryan, 9-under 62 today, your lowest round of the season, capped it off with a nice putt there at your last. What was working well for you?

RYAN GERARD: I just hit it really, really good all day. I never put myself out of position besides 18, I made bogey there. I hit it awesome all day. I've been hitting it good and just kind of made it an easy round so I was never really struggling for anything. Got a couple bonus putts to drop there at the last and then one or two earlier in the round. Just hit it really solid all day.

Q. Anything in particular about this course that either fits your eye or how the conditions were today?

RYAN GERARD: I just feel like this golf course is pretty gettable today. Just had to keep staying patient. There's a couple holes that you can't try and overpower, you've got to stay patient and not fall asleep on a few shots. Besides that, you can kind of pin your ears back and go get it. This golf course, I played here a couple times before this week so I had seen it before and was ready to go out and get it. Yeah, it's ripe for the taking right now.

Q. Has anything changed with you since you won in terms of your preparation or mindset coming in week to week?

RYAN GERARD: I'm just tired. I've been doing a little bit less in terms of just like full-on grind just trying to make sure that the body feels really good instead of maybe making sure that everything feels quite as (indiscernible) because I know the game is there, I've been playing well, I'm just trying to keep it rolling. Then we're going to get an off week here next week and just try and reset, kind of get everything back to what it should be and go from there.

Q. You mentioned the long stretch we've been in with a lot of tournaments back to back. What's been kind of the toughest part week to week for you?

RYAN GERARD: It's a little bit of travel, a little bit of everything, but it's just -- I've been fortunate enough to play a lot of weekends and a lot of them have been late on Saturdays and Sundays, so just the body gets tired, mentally you get fatigued. So it's really just trying to stay patient, not trying to overdo it and not trying to almost carry too much momentum from one week to another because it is the beginning of a new tournament every single week that you show up. So just because you played well last week doesn't mean you're



going to get to start five shots in front of everyone the next week. Just really trying to start from scratch, stay positive, stay in the moment and just really do the things that I need to be doing with eating, sleeping, stretching, all that stuff. Just routine after a while has been very helpful. Not trying to overdo it in terms of practice, but make sure I try and take care of everything else.

Q. You had a pretty good crowd following you today. What are your ties to this area?

RYAN GERARD: My whole mom's side of the family lives here. My grandma, she's 94, she's out here on a scooter scooting around. Basically my entire family lives here. It's pretty cool. They didn't get to watch me play here last year, so they all made the trip to John Deere down the road.

Yeah, I drive past this golf course a lot when I'm here visiting family, but to actually get a chance to play it is pretty cool and it's great to have them out there. It's always a bonus when you get to play well in front of a bunch of people who are rooting for you. And they've had my back since day one. They watch me every week, they follow me online, so it's cool to get them in person to kind of get the cheering going. No, I'm just glad that I got to play well in front of them today.

Q. Was John Deere the last time your grandma got to come out and watch you in person?

RYAN GERARD: Yeah, last time. She watches on TV whenever she can, but yeah, John Deere was the last time.

Q. And you're staying at your uncle's?

RYAN GERARD: Staying at my uncle's house, yeah. So my family, they farm corn and soybeans about 10 minutes south of here. My uncle's house is kind of right there. My cousins live -- I have six cousins in the area that live around here, I have a couple aunts, a couple uncles, friends, grandma. Yeah, a little bit of everything going on. It's fun.

Q. How nice is it to have like a place to stay that's family instead of staying in a hotel or something?

RYAN GERARD: It's nice. At the end of this long stretch, it's really nice. I think I've done four hotels and two AirBnBs up until this point in the last seven weeks. Feels nice sleeping in a bed that isn't just your run-of-the-mill mattress. Yeah, it's nice being around people that really have your best interests at heart, too. They've been following me since I was 6 years old, 7 years old telling them I was going to play professional golf. Some of them may be laughing, but they've always believed in me, always had my back and it's kind of cool that they get to watch it come full circle and be out here supporting.

