

ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

ROUND 3 QUOTES

June 29, 2024



AKSHAY BHATIA (-17)

Q. Akshay, just thoughts on the round and kind of trading punches with Aaron throughout the day today?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah. I mean, I'm still in this golf tournament. I wouldn't say everything felt super sharp today, but I'm right there, excited to be here. Just fun, I love this. I said this last week and I said it this week, but I love the feeling of just all the adrenaline and fan support, so I'm excited for tomorrow.

Q. With all the delays, everything, did today feel like an eternity but did it still kind of somehow manage to go by pretty quick?

AKSHAY BHATIA: It was a long day. Last week, same thing. Used to delays right now, summer golf, this is typical.

Q. You touched on it a little bit with Todd, but it was a little different tied for the lead compared to the big lead at Valero, but is there anything you're going to take away from that experience and apply it to tomorrow?

AKSHAY BHATIA: No. I mean, I know I can win, I know I have the game and if there's anything I can lean on is being uncomfortable's OK. I love it, I enjoy it so I'm just going to keep using that in my favor.

Q. Talk me through No. 2, the bounce out in the fairway. You hit a provisional, I think. Did you obviously think that was gone?

AKSHAY BHATIA: I mean, we didn't see anyone put their hands up. I told my caddie Grayson Murray kind of tossed that ball back in the fairway for me. That was a big kind of birdie for me. Could have made the round way different and it saved me bogey free for 54 holes.

Q. What's the thing you're looking forward to the most tomorrow?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Staying in this spot once again. Last week I was right there for a long time and obviously didn't get it done, but I'm excited for this. This is what I want, I want to win. It's just going to be fun whether or not it happens and just being in this position, it's awesome.



Q. I asked Aaron this, I'll ask you, too. What do you get out of battling with him these last few rounds?

AKSHAY BHATIA: I mean, I didn't worry necessarily too much. He obviously played really good, but so many people in this golf tournament, it's not just us two. We didn't separate ourselves. It's fun, though. Momentum's great for the group and we had a good day.

Q. Weather being an inconsistent factor, just given off the scorecards we could say this was a tougher round for you just compared to the last two. What are you hoping the course looks like tomorrow?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Hopefully it dries up. Not a lot of roll. The wind was pretty strong and it wasn't too much fun playing the par 5s in off the left, so hopefully the wind dies down a little bit tomorrow.

Q. You love tapping into that well of confidence and you feel so strongly about yourself and your game. Is there anything you do between tonight and tomorrow to keep that energy going?

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, ice bath and then I talk to my psychologist, talk to my swing coach, talk to my fiancée, just going to get the vibes going. They're always rooting for me whether or not it's good or bad and I look forward to chatting with them tonight.

