

THE ASCENDENT presented by blue

ROUND 1 QUOTES

July 11, 2024

RYAN COLE. (-3)



Q. Ryan, I guess what have the last two weeks or so been like and how have your plans changed since finishing in the top-10 in Springfield?

RYAN COLE: I mean, it's been great. Playing good golf and that's really what matters. Had a great week last week, played really solid, just a lot of fun. Found a great caddie and he's sticking with me this week and it's great.

Yeah, I didn't have to play the Monday qualifier this week, which is nice, and got a start, so that's obviously what we're trying to do. Just got to keep going and keep playing good golf and keep earning starts in the future and see where it takes me.

Q. So after Springfield, where did you play last week while everybody else was off?

RYAN COLE: So I played the Laramie Open in Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. That was the original plan. I was going to play that, then come back down for the Monday. So I didn't have to play the Monday, but figured I'd still play that, get some experience at altitude. I've played a lot at altitude before, but it's just good to get out here maybe a week early and get to see something flying really far. It was helpful.

Q. And what was on your schedule this week before --

RYAN COLE: I believe I was going to play the Waterloo Open in Iowa. Obviously hoping to play well this week and not have to play the Monday coming up, but if we have to do that, that's what it is.

Plans change quick and that's a good thing.

Q. How did you make your way to James Madison? I know you're from the area, but --

RYAN COLE: I'm from Maryland originally, so stayed kind of a little more locally. I cast a pretty wide net looking to where I was going to play college golf. I just, I kind of ran out of options, couldn't really find anywhere that made a lot of sense. And JMU was great, I really loved all four years I spent there. It was awesome.

Q. Did you go to James Madison with the intent of like playing there and eventually like turning professional and playing professionally?



RYAN COLE: Yeah, I was probably about halfway through that I really decided that that's definitely what I wanted to do. I think I always had the idea that that's what I wanted to do, but once I started playing -- I played pretty well the first two years, but I felt like I needed to really commit myself and get a lot better if I wanted to do something with it. So I did and I've been chasing it ever since.

Q. Like six years as a pro?

RYAN COLE: Man, it's been a good while. I guess that was 2017, so yeah, it's been a while. That's almost -- I guess this is my eighth year, something like that, yeah.

Q. To this point has it mostly been it looks like mini tours and Mondays?

RYAN COLE: I did a lot of -- I had a lot of experience down in Latin America, played the PGA TOUR Latinoamerica and all that, so I did a lot of that. Other than that, yeah, you know, just chasing Mondays, mini tours.

It's about getting better, though. I never really doubted that I could play at this level and now I've played a little bit out here now and I don't see any reason to change that opinion. I'm enjoying it, it's fun. It's a lot better than mini tours, it's a lot better than chasing Mondays, that's for sure, and I want to keep it going.

Q. Coming out of Springfield, did you become sort of aware, take a step back and look at like the different things that are in play now with the amount of points that you earned there?

RYAN COLE: Sure. I know that there's a very good chance that I would be into the Playoffs just based on what happened last year, just doing the math. So I know that, you know, yeah, I could be in a good spot, but I've got to keep playing well each week. It doesn't really matter -- I can't think about down the line, it's all about playing good golf wherever you are that week and that's what my focus is.

Q. Did you have like a goal for yourself coming into 2024 just as a whole?

RYAN COLE: I mean, obviously you miss at Q school, that's disappointing, but when I missed the second stage, just didn't play very well, so that's obviously throwing a wrinkle in the plans. I committed myself to that I was going to play Mondays and I was going to make it in and I was going to try to make some noise and I thought that was the best way to go about it. You know, that's what I've done so far. I mean, I Mondayed into Savannah as well, got my feet wet out there, made the cut. Then going into last week, I Monday in and I feel much more comfortable just because of the experience I've had. I've Mondayed into a decent amount of events recently, so I knew what to expect. I knew my game was in great shape, still is. I feel like I keep saying it, but it's just about getting better. It's not about where you are, it's about how good are you and can that sustain, you know, throughout a season. I think that's where I am right now and I think it's a good spot to be.



Q. And what would you say for you is the toughest part of sort of chasing status the way that you are this year?

RYAN COLE: There's a lot of different factors there. The money is obviously a consideration, it's very expensive to do with no status especially. The travel is difficult and it's hard to get into a rhythm when you're playing Monday qualifiers, so that's why I play a lot of other events, too, because obviously I've made it through a couple Mondays but I've missed at a lot more.

You kind of have to figure out what are you going to do then, right? Obviously you're trying to make a little bit of money, but you're trying to get your game in good enough shape to play tournament golf because it's more than just -- it's more than just can you play one round. That's great. Obviously you need to shoot really low rounds to get through Mondays, sure, but what are you going to do once you get to the event, because that's all that actually matters at the end of the day.

It's an adjustment. It's not normal tournament golf, you don't have a bunch of starts lined up for you, but I wouldn't trade it. I think it makes me mentally tougher. I think it makes me, you know, more prepared to deal with adversity out here. I mean, like today things did not -- I did not play -- did not play well by any means and to get away with 3 under was nice because I don't think I hit more than half the greens, it might have been less, to be honest. So yeah, it's definitely prepared me well.

Q. How many career Mondays do you think you've played?

RYAN COLE: Like how many times have I tried to Monday qualify? Oh, gosh, I don't even know how to put a number on that. Maybe like 50, something like that, yeah. It's a lot. There's a lot more failure than success at those. That's one of those it doesn't matter how good you are, it's hard to be one of the lowest scores of the day. You're having to shoot -- if you don't shoot 7, 8 under par most of the time, you're not even sniffing, so it's difficult. But it's been a lot.

