

ELK RIDGE SASKATCHEWAN OPEN

ROUND 4 QUOTES

August 18, 2024

A.J. EWART (-17)



Q. A.J., first professional victory, what a day. How are you feeling right now?

A.J. EWART: Yeah, I'm still in shock, I don't really know. Honestly, I'm super happy and excited, but it hasn't really hit me yet, everything kind of happened pretty quick. So far it feels pretty special, but I'm sure it will just get better.

Q. Did you have any idea where you were on the leaderboard today?

A.J. EWART: I somewhat had an idea. I didn't -- I tried not to look at 'em. You always kind of know without even looking. Yeah, I figured I was near the top, but to be honest with you, I thought I had to birdie 18. I thought par was going to get me in a playoff.

Yeah, then I asked my caddie when we were walking up to the green and he told me two putts were good. Obviously made it a little hard on myself, but got it done.

Q. Yeah, walk me through 18 just from start to finish.

A.J. EWART: Yeah. I've been pretty comfortable with the tee shot all week, I've been hitting this kind of flighted 3-iron really well. Just another standard one, hit the fairway.

I think I had 149 yards to the pin, it was uphill. Obviously there was some juices flowing, so figured it was just a perfect pitching wedge. I tugged it a bit. It was pin high, it was 22 feet, or 31 feet, sorry. Yeah, it was straight down the hill. I thought it was going to be pretty quick, but left myself probably five feet down the hill to win the tournament. Then made the putt. The rest is history.

Q. You're walking up, they announce you. Are you kind of taking in everything or are you just locked in on what you have to do?

A.J. EWART: I was pretty locked in on what I have to do. My caddie cracked a couple jokes when we were walking up, but we were pretty focused on what was going on. Yeah, I acknowledged the crowd, but then put my head back down and went to work.

Q. And you had a double early on in the back nine there. Just walk me through what your mindset was and how you felt.

A.J. EWART: Yeah, it didn't really startle me at all. Obviously you don't want to make a



double, but it didn't really bother me. I knew there was more birdie holes. I played the back nine really well this week, so I knew I wasn't out of it by any means. Yeah, just a minor bump in the road. A little adversity never hurt.

Q. And take me through the journey. I know we talked about this this week, just getting that phone call, being a sponsor exemption and now here you are a fully exempt member through the Latin swing, you have a place to play.

A.J. EWART: Yeah, it's special. Obviously I'm super thankful for Ryan and the tournament for giving me a spot. It's just a nice kind of piece of mind, right? Obviously I knew I had to top 25 this week to get into the next event or somehow get to my 10:33 tee time tomorrow morning, which probably is impossible.

It's really special just kind of knowing some job security, right, and knowing where you're going to be and kind of plan ahead. The last month and a half or two months have been kind of chaotic, I didn't know where I was going to be or what I was going to be doing, just playing everywhere and whatnot. Now it's nice to know exactly what's going to happen.

Q. And not only do you have a place to play, but now you're in contention for a Korn Ferry Tour card. You moved up to No. 14 in the Fortinet Cup. How does that feel?

A.J. EWART: Yeah, obviously it's special, right? That's what we want to be, we want to keep moving on up and eventually make our way to the PGA TOUR. To have a chance for a Korn Ferry Tour card is everything that I could wish for, right? I'm thankful to be in this position and looking to make the most of the opportunity.

Q. And speak a little bit to Team Canada. You've had, what, six, seven, eight guys just crowd you when you made that winning putt. How did that feel?

A.J. EWART: Yeah, it's super special. Some of the guys on the team are some of my best friends. To have them here, and they were out for the back nine and they were pulling for me and I could hear them. They might not have known that I acknowledged them, but I could hear them. It's obviously super special. And Golf Canada, it means everything to us, right? We're all very thankful for them.

Q. And just your group today, Bryce Lewis and CT, were you keeping up with them at all? Were you focused on your own? How was that pressure?

A.J. EWART: Yeah, it was like a little bit of both. I think sometimes you can get caught up in what other people are doing. I just kind of, I just tried to stick to myself and play my own game. I feel like I did a pretty good job of that. Obviously you know what the other guys are at, there's a leaderboard walking with us, but I wasn't too worried about it. Just tried to stick to my process and hit every shot to the best of my ability. I feel like I did a decent job of that.

Q. And take me back to the collegiate career, 14 victories. Where does this one



professional one line up?

A.J. EWART: I mean, this one's obviously one, right? But yeah, I wouldn't be here without those collegiate victories. They taught me so much. On a day like today it's huge to have those in your back pocket, just to kind of lean on those experiences. Just putting yourself in those situations, the more you put yourself in those situations the better you get at them. So yeah, I'm super thankful for them.

Q. You needed two putts to win on 18. You left the first putt I'd say uncomfortably short. Just take me through what's going through your mind and how you settled the nerves for a three-footer to seal off the victory.

A.J. EWART: Yeah, I don't know. It was like the first one was like 31 feet, but it was pretty fast downhill. I saw Bryce's ball, it kind of just got to the top of the hill and kind of just creeped over.

Yeah, I don't know. I tried to do the same, but obviously I didn't hit it enough. But that three-footer, yeah, it was pretty nervy. I guess where I was standing, like I wasn't facing the crowd so all I saw was the hole and the trees and the bush. It was like just trying to picture myself back home on the putting green, right, just another three-footer. Obviously didn't -- obviously there's a little more to it, but I just tried to tell myself that. I had a couple thoughts with my putting this week and just stuck to those and executed.

Q. Have you ever heard a quieter silence?

A.J. EWART: Honestly, yeah, I don't know. I didn't know what was going on. I was too focused on what the next putt was, I wasn't too worried about what the crowd was doing. I was kind of kicking myself for leaving that putt that far short, but wasn't too upset, was just worried about the next one.

Q. The one thing I noticed on the putting green, tell me about your ball marker and how proud of a Canadian you are.

A.J. EWART: Yeah, it's a toonie.

Q. Do you have it there?

A.J. EWART: I don't have it on me, no. Used to use a loonie, but the loonies would kind of dull out. Now I use a toonie because obviously it's got that silver part, it's a little more shiny. Just always obviously a proud Canadian and I just feel like it brings some good luck.

Q. It's working.

A.J. EWART: Yeah, it's working.

