

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
September 12, 2024

MARK HUBBARD (-5)

PROCORE
CHAMPIONSHIP

Q. Good round, Mark.

MARK HUBBARD: Thank you.

Q. Nine birdies. Can you kind of take us through it?

MARK HUBBARD: Yeah. I'm just playing really well right now. I went back to my old black beauty, my Oddysey No. 9 that I putted with since 2014. I think some of the work I did with the Spider that I switched to has been helpful with my stroke, but just the deep milled face on there versus the insert, my feel is so much better, which is what you really need on these greens with the poa annua. They're quick, there's tons of slope, you're hitting some four-footers a foot of break, so I think feel's a lot more important than stroke out here. I switched back to that for the Monday qualifier and obviously that went well and I carried over into today.

Q. So you just switched to that for the Monday qualifier?

MARK HUBBARD: Yeah. I kinda said, you know, I've been thinking about it for a while, but my stroke --

Q. Is this your (inaudible) putter?

MARK HUBBARD: Yeah. My stroke technically with the Spider is so much better, but I've been thinking about it for a while because I've just been struggling with my feel and with my speed with the insert on the Spider.

So yeah, I looked at the situation on Friday and Monday as an opportunity to just try something out and freewheel it, and I putted really well on Monday and putted even better today.

Q. And then when you started the back nine, was it kind of just a continuation of how well you played on Monday and then how did you sort of survive the hiccup on 17?

MARK HUBBARD: Yeah, I mean, like I said, I feel like as bummed as I was on Friday when I missed the deadline and didn't think I would be playing this week, because I love this tournament, I love Napa, I feel like I rebounded really quickly. I have been putting in some pretty good work. Probably out of all the aspects of my game I've been putting the most work into my mental game just because I haven't really been that happy on the golf course lately. I just think some of that's paying off. It's like anything else, it's a practice, and so I've just got

to keep doing it. I think some of that patience and just getting over things a little bit easier, accepting things a little more, which I've done in the past, it's just easy to fall into being result oriented and getting frustrated and getting negative out here. Golf is impossible. I'm just doing a little bit better job of accepting things and I think that carried over on Monday and then also carried over into my back nine today after that triple.

Q. Were you over it by 18 tee?

MARK HUBBARD: Yeah. I mean, I had a little red ass on my tee shot on 18, I went after that one a little more than normal, but by the time I got to that ball there I was completely over it and I hit a great 3-wood, good chip and good putt there and off I went.

Q. When was the last time you had nine birdies and a triple?

MARK HUBBARD: Never.

Q. Never, that's a long time ago.

MARK HUBBARD: Maybe in the course of a tournament maybe, but never a day.

Q. I was going to ask you a little bit about the putter. The equipment, just wondering for someone who's as good at putting as you are, where do you manifest the difference between the insert and the milled putter? How do you notice it?

MARK HUBBARD: From a technical standpoint, if you look at my putter, like we did it on TrackMan, if you look at -- I don't know what they would even measure, but how fast the ball comes off the face, my face is actually softer, but feel-wise to me it feels harder. Basically for a deep milled to me what it feels like is the force that I'm putting into it is what it's coming off. There's no give and there's no kind of explode off of it, where the insert technically is firmer but I feel the ball kind of compress into the insert and shoot off. So I'm just constantly afraid of hitting -- like it just feels like it's going to explode in my hands sometimes so I leave everything short, I'm kind of decelling into it.

With this one, if I got a downhill putt, like I still feel like I can have a little bit of hit in my stroke which is what I need personally with the amount of arc I have to keep the ball online. It's still going to be a process. I'm going to keep exploring some stuff, see if I can find a Spider with a milled face. I don't know if they even do that. After the way I putted today, I don't think I'm going to be messing with it too much.

Q. What was the best zinger you heard for missing the deadline for the tournament? Your big brother got one off.

MARK HUBBARD: Yeah, I was going to say I don't even know if I could give you one because I heard it from about 200 people over the last two days. Scottie's playing with one of my -- me and my brother's best friends right now at Troubadour in some sort of shamble

or something like that. Apparently he was blowing my brother up asking why I didn't have somebody to register for me. I think that's more of a zing on my agents, but no, it's all my fault.

I'm looking over there, I see Russell Knox. He's the guy I let in with my blunder, so he did come up to me and say if he had a good week, he'd send me a case of wine.