

SIMMONS BANK OPEN for the SNEDEKER FOUNDATION

ROUND 3 QUOTES
September 14, 2024



RYAN GERARD

Q. What's been clicking for you this week?

RYAN GERARD: Just been hitting it really nicely, especially off the tee. I feel like this golf course especially playing lift, clean and place, being in the fairway's been a huge bonus for me.

And I feel like my iron shots have been fairly solid, but nothing too spectacular compared to normal. Just really hitting it good off the tee, managing it well.

This is the kind of grass I grew up on in North Carolina down the road. About six hours straight shot down I-40 you'll find this patchy bermuda I'm comfortable on it, played a lot on it and that's kind of helped.

Q. In terms of like your season so far and having your (inaudible,) have a chance to make a run, do you feel like you're playing with a little more house money getting ready for the Tour or (inaudible)?

RYAN GERARD: I mean, you definitely feel that same urgency. There's a big difference between finishing 30th and second on the points list. I don't know if I can get to first because Matt's playing so frigging good, but I mean, you really want to play the first event of the year, Sony. Only 18 guys got in there last year. You really want to play Honda, Cognizant, that's in my backyard. I think 20, 21 guys got in there last year. Just every start at the beginning of the year means so much just for that first reshuffle and just your chances for the rest of the year.

I was out there kind of living on the first alternate list last year a bit and just having guaranteed starts in certain events and the more opportunities that you have to kind of put points on the board early in the season makes a big difference for the rest of your year and hopefully kind of climbing up that FedExCup points list for next year.

Q. Is it kind of unique (inaudible) now kind of played the Korn Ferry Tour season might have played last year and got your card, how do you keep from being like I guess negative about it?

RYAN GERARD: I mean, it's definitely hard, especially early on. I felt like, man, I was on the PGA TOUR last year, I played good enough to hypothetically keep my card. Just with the new FedExCup Fall and kind of rules of special temporary members, like you've got to go



grind it and get it on the Korn Ferry. Just took a shift in mindset kind of coming back to the United States after the first six international events.

These guys out here are really good, too, so you've got to show up every week with the same intensity and the same ready-to-go'ness as you would on the PGA TOUR.

I figured that if I can just kind of keep doing what I'm doing, like I deserve and belong out there and I've kind of proven that to myself and hopefully I've proven that to everyone else, but at the end of the day these guys are really good and you have to go put good numbers of the board, otherwise you're just going to get lapped.

Q. How would you say is like in terms of your season this year, is there one part of your game that you elevated the most from last year or do you feel like (inaudible)?

RYAN GERARD: I feel like I've just -- like gotten a little bit more consistent. I feel like my putting is definitely better this year. I've spent a lot of time just hitting putts, making putts, practicing putts. I think just kind of that's paid off. I feel like my short putting is markedly better.

So when you have confidence in those three- to seven-footers it kind of frees you up to do everything else just a little bit more without that much pressure. All of a sudden those chip shots become easier, those approach shots when you kind of hit them close, you convert on them more often, so that has helped. Feel like I've been more consistent throughout the bag and just getting more experience, playing a lot more golf tournaments and just overall I think maturity's helped a little bit too.

Q. How did you spend the two weeks between Boise (inaudible)?

RYAN GERARD: So the first couple days I went to some national parks with my mom up there in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons, so that was really cool.

Got home, had a lesson, played a lot of golf, practiced a lot of golf, got here -- went to a buddy's wedding, Bryson Nimmer got married on Friday, but then we were out here Saturday, Sunday in Nashville practicing.

There's no slow down. I mean, the end of the season you kind of want to run through the finish line instead of kind of slow down towards it. I'm happy with the way that my two weeks went and kind of the work that I've put in to get me to this point, but it's all for nothing if you don't close it out tomorrow.

Q. Who is your coach?

RYAN GERARD: I just took a lesson from a guy in Jupiter down there, Jason Bales. He works with a couple guys on the PGA TOUR. Saw a couple things, just made sure that we had some slight adjustments, but nothing too crazy.



Q. That was your first lesson with him?

RYAN GERARD: Yeah. Like first, maybe like second technically official one. He's come to a couple events, watched me hit a few balls on the range from time to time.

Just stuff, man. Just got to keep getting better. These guys are really good and the guys at the next level are really good, if not better. If you want to be the best, you've got to kind of be prepared to work as hard as it -- just work hard and then whatever it takes to get it done, you've got to go get.

