

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
November 21, 2024

MAVERICK McNEALY (-8)



Q. Great round, 62 on the tougher of the two courses in pretty tough winds. What was going so right for you today?

MAVERICK McNEALY: Scout and I were talking about it on the last hole, I feel like we kind of did everything really well. I drove it awesome, iron play was about as good as it's been all year. The last three tournaments it's really been great and that's the part of my game I've wanted to improve the most. I chipped in today, got everything up and down and putted awesome today, too. There's really nothing weak out there today.

Q. And how much has it freed you up to know that he's going to be on the bag next year through Atlanta and also knowing that you're in those early two Signature Events next year?

MAVERICK McNEALY: It's awesome. I think we're in a great spot. We've spent a lot of time just looking at my game holistically. Scout and I talked about my golf game for years, talked about his when he was playing at Baylor and mine on Tour. We're kind of the venting brothers about golf in all aspects.

It's been really awesome the strides and improvements we've been able to make just in approaching tournaments and stuff with my golf swing. I really like where we're trending and I think we're starting to see of the good work we put in the last couple months playing off.

Q. Was there something specific about your iron play that maybe just clicked the last three weeks?

MAVERICK McNEALY: I'm working with Scott Hamilton quite a bit lately and we've been simply trying to get from under the plane to on top of the plane.

When you're underneath, it makes it really hard to hit anything left to right, anything flighted and anything off speed. All three of those things you have to do here and so we've been getting a lot more on top of it.

I was flushing it Monday through Wednesday. This is kind of Greensboro, Memphis, even Napa and especially Sanderson is when Scout brought it up that he's like, why don't you overdo it Monday through Wednesday so that when you are competing, you kind of regress back to where you want it to be instead of get it where you want it Monday through Wednesday and then revert to some old tendencies.

Been trying to hit steep cuts Monday through Wednesday even if it's not perfect and then

when the gun goes out off and I get a little bit of that tournament feel and adrenaline, it's kind of slotted right in where I want it and saw that today.

Q. In these conditions, can you give me an example of that today where you had to execute pretty much the perfect shot?

MAVERICK McNEALY: The first hole of the day, 10 was our first hole during the practice round on Tuesday. Tuesday I hit driver, sand wedge and today was driver, 5-iron. So right out of the gates you've got hazard left, you can't cover the bunkers that we were flying by 60 yards in the practice rounds, so just had to hit two great shots in the middle of the green. Speed felt great with the putter.

Even the shot into 9 on the last hole, wind ripping off the right, I just steepened left and was able to hit the window and spin that ball a little bit left to right to hold the wind and that's a shot I wasn't very comfortable with six months ago.

Q. Are you aware of like all of the numbers stress, let's put it, the FedExCup numbers stress this week and how much do you then sort of maybe smile inside at like you don't have that?

MAVERICK McNEALY: I started the fall wanting to be in the top 60 and now that that's pretty much taken care of, Scout and I want to get to Kapalua. That's our next b