

COOPER MUSSELMAN (-3)

Q. Cooper, bogey-free 3-under 67, what was working for you out there today?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Everything was just kind of solid. There was, you know, hit some really good like, you know, four-, five-footers to kind of keep the momentum going throughout the round. Hitting the driver great, hitting my irons OK. Short game is really what kept me in it today.

Q. Final stage, we know a lot on the line. What was your expectations coming into this?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Just really just to have fun. I feel like I'm in a good spot and I feel like whatever happens, happens. I'm just kind of here to just play as well as I can, kind of forget about the outcome.

Q. And you're one of four guys I believe in the top 15 that played here today. This course is playing really tough. Can you just talk about the course itself and the conditions?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, cold, windy. My caddie and I were talking, there's really no like gimmee birdies out here, you kind of have to earn everything. Every birdie you have is really well earned. Yeah, it's just windy and cold. Going to have to make a lot of four-and five-footers for par today.

Q. You made it seem really easy going bogey free, I'm sure it was not. Just talk about the grind out there, what made it a little easier, I guess.

COOPER MUSSELMAN: When the weather gets like this, it's honestly easier just to get in a "one shot at a time" mindset. You have to focus so hard on each shot because every shot seems pretty difficult.

Honestly, it kind of helps the mental side I think, but it's really hard, the conditions are really hard. Yeah, that's pretty much it.

Q. And you started at first stage, I believe.

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah.

Q. Can you just walk me through that journey and how it feels to make it to final stage, get some status?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, it feels great. Going into the last day at first stage was tough, I think I was outside the number going into the last day of first stage and just happy to, yeah, get through there.

I had a good round to get me through to second stage and then I played great at second stage. Yeah, just thrilled to be here.

Q. Yeah, how's it feel to get some status no matter where you finish? That the goal? Is it a PGA TOUR card No. 1 ultimately?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, the goal is to play as well as you possibly can and hopefully be towards the top with a couple holes to play and then you can kind of start thinking about that.

For right now I'm just trying to -- yeah, happy to have some status going forward, but yeah, I'm really just focusing on tomorrow.

Q. I believe KFT last year you needed a good final round to make it into the next week. Is there any pressure situation like this that you can pull kind of appreciation from?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Not really. I'd say like I feel like I just -- when my back's against the wall, try and just forget about everything and try and take it just one shot at a time. That's what we're trying to do this week.

Sorry, this glare is really killing me. I can barely open my eyes normally.

Q. Any advice from anyone in particular this week? Any professionals? I believe you went to high school with Justin Thomas, is that right?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: I did, yeah, yeah. He was two years older than me, so whenever I was a sophomore, he was a senior.

I mean, we don't talk a whole lot anymore. He's kind of off doing bigger and better things. I'm just a fan of his and love following a long with him. Yeah, I haven't talked to him probably in a little bit.

Q. A lot of positives off the course for you over the last year. How difficult was it this year not having a place to play? You've had success at pretty much every level that you've had, but how difficult was it -- obviously you took advantage of it at ISCO -- going into a year not having a place to play?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, this is the first year where I've had just no status on any tour. Definitely difficult to start the year. I mean, mentally it was just kind of like, you know,



are we going to keep going, what's kind of the plan here.

Personally, my wife and I had our first baby in June so that definitely was amazing. Ever since then I've just been on a really just positive mindset ever since then.

