

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
December 12, 2024



COREY SHAUN (-9)

Q. Corey, I mean, amazing round. Obviously probably one of the rounds of the year in golf. How's it feel? What was clicking today?

COREY SHAUN: It feels really good. I just think a lot of things went well today. I putted well, I played a lot of smart golf, a lot of really good iron shots to like smart sides of the pin 15 feet, 10 feet and seemed to make pretty much all the putts that I needed to make. Just a lot of 10- to 15- footers cruised through and it just felt really good out there.

Q. To be leading the field of 170 by five shots, I know it's only one day, but did you feel in the zone in any way?

COREY SHAUN: Yeah, at one point for sure. I think I made five birdies in a row on my back nine today where I got to 9 under at that point, I was just like walking in 20-footers, I was like this feels pretty good.

It was cool. Days like this doesn't really come by that often, but at the same time there's so much golf to be played and it's very early to say anything really.

Q. Are you usually this good of a cold weather player?

COREY SHAUN: I have no idea. It was cold this morning, for sure. I was definitely stiff on the driving range, didn't really hit it very good on the range. I was like hopefully I can just figure it out in a couple holes.

Q. This last month, how have you maintained energy? I know you've played all over the place in the last couple months.

COREY SHAUN: It's a good question because I really haven't. I was playing really good golf in general these past eight weeks or whatever it's been and I've been really satisfied with a lot of parts of my golf game. I feel like things have really started to come together. I kind of gained some confidence as a result of that, but at the same time it's like it's so hard to stay alert and stay energized in this stretch of golf because it's like an elite field of professional golfers, if you're a little bit off in one aspect, make a little mental mistake and you make a bogey and it costs you like 20, 30 spots for sure.

Q. How did you spend the time between last Friday and like when did you get here, where did you go after Valencia?

COREY SHAUN: Yeah, so we finished up Friday second stage, drove back home, which is



like three hours-ish, a little over three hours with traffic, traffic on Friday.

After that, Saturday just did absolutely nothing, hung out with my girlfriend. Hadn't seen her in about seven weeks, so I was just like very apologetic, I was like sorry, sorry, sorry. Made sure to buy her lunch and dinner.

That was cool, it was helpful. Reenergized. Came here Sunday, flew out Sunday morning and saw the course Monday, Tuesday. Did almost nothing yesterday and then here we are today.

Q. What's the atmosphere like at the DP Q School compared to this one?

COREY SHAUN: I mean, pretty similar in the aspect of you've got a hundred-plus of the best golfers in the world trying to get a job, try to secure some really good status somewhere.

I think over there and over here you're going to see really good golfers, really good tests of golf courses.

I think the atmosphere is just going to be as a result very similar, like-minded guys trying to grind it out and figure out a way to get a job this week.

Q. And if you don't mind, I'm going to do this with you, starting with 11, can you recall the distances on your putts?

COREY SHAUN: Yeah, so hole 11 was about six, seven feet.

Q. And 12?

COREY SHAUN: 12, I'm starting to blank a little bit now. I can check my book. Do you mind if I check my book?

Q. Sure, sure.

COREY SHAUN: Twelve, I don't remember -- somewhere around 20 feet.

Q. OK. And 13?

COREY SHAUN: Thirteen, I think it was somewhere around that 20-foot range again.

Q. OK. The par-5 16?

COREY SHAUN: Sixteen was about six feet.

Q. Where were you on your second shot?



COREY SHAUN: Actually laid up on that tee shot. I just hit like a 5-wood off the tee, hit a 7-iron and then a lob wedge like six feet. Played it a little conservative.

Q. And then the five-hole streak starting with 1.

COREY SHAUN: Yeah, hole 1 I did the same thing, laid up and hit a wedge to sounds like 15 feet, made it. Hole 2 I hit it pretty close, about five feet. Hole 3 --

Q. Short par 4, yeah?

COREY SHAUN: Hole 3 I made a little bit of a putt, about 25 feet. Hole 4 I hit it to about I want to say around eight feet.

Q. And then the par 3?

COREY SHAUN: That one was also about low 20s, 22 feet, 23 feet.

Q. Did you have any real good looks coming in after that?

COREY SHAUN: The last couple holes are really tough, so like not really. I had like essentially 45 feet on the last two holes, I was just happy to two-putt.

Then hole 6 I hit a really good second shot in there, just didn't really take the wind. It was probably about 25 feet that I almost made, to be honest.

Then hole 7, that short par 4, I hit a layup off the tee and a pretty good second shot, just kind of ripped back to the front edge and it was kind of just a two-putt territory spot.

Q. Did you have any pars you really had to grind over at all?

COREY SHAUN: Yeah, starting out there were a couple, for sure. The first hole of the day, kind of like I was saying, I did just a little prep yesterday -- well, I came out yesterday morning kind of in that slot where it looked like it was going to be good for a little bit. The weather, I mean.

There was probably only about an hour's worth of space that ended up being good until that horn sounded. And I didn't feel like staying around and see if it was going to wait out or what was going to happen, so I just went home. I just hit balls for about 45 minutes and then putted for 15. Didn't really do as much as I would have liked.

Then so on the first hole today being pretty stiff from being so cold on the range, I kind of didn't feel very comfortable so I hit it in the left rough off the tee, just trying to like not knock it in the water on hole 10 that is and then second shot kind of same thing, just avoid water, and then hit it like in the left rough probably like 25 yards from the hole. And then hit a great



chip to about six feet and made a six-footer for par. I feel like that was a really big momentum shift because I think anytime you can avoid a bogey on the first hole at an event like this kind of settles the nerves just means a lot.

Q. What's your personal record in competition?

COREY SHAUN: 10-under 62 at the Met, I forget, once or twice.

Q. But this is your best in competition?

COREY SHAUN: Best number score 61, yes. Definitely probably best relative to the field, for sure.

Q. At any point did the number 59 run through your mind?

COREY SHAUN: I kind of thought about it at one point. Maybe after I made my fourth birdie in a row on the back I knew it was like technically possible, but I kind of started realizing the last few holes are pretty tough. I still realized it was technically possible, but I wasn't trying to shoot for it or anything. I was trying to hit the right golf shots.

Q. Is there anything you've done in the last couple months that's allowed you to help bring out some good golf?

COREY SHAUN: I think in general, like I think right at first stage of PGA TOUR Q-School, in the practice rounds leading up to it, I like kind of figured out a swing thought that just kind of worked well for me. I'm kind of a golf nut, so I think and tinker way too much.

The entire year before that I played some OK golf, but to start the year I was playing pretty poorly and as a result I was just always trying to figure out what can I do better, what can I do better.

As like kind of an analytical golfer, I was trying to like just try stuff every single day, try something new. Sometimes it's OK, but it's not really probably the most optimal way to be thinking at a tournament, like competing against elite professionals.

I think since then I've kind of more or less had the same swing thought, like very similar, just trying to dial it in a little bit. Once I kind of figured that out, it's like kind of every shot I hit I don't have to worry about what position am I trying to hit right now.

Q. Do you work with an instructor?

COREY SHAUN: Not primarily. I've seen a couple instructors.

