

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
January 23, 2025



ERIC COLE (-3)

Q. Eric, kind of just talk me through the conditions that you guys faced, for you probably the whole back nine?

ERIC COLE: Yeah, no, it was extremely difficult. It started really blowing on like our second or third hole, so we had a solid six holes of really heavy winds. Then it almost died down and switched directions for a few holes around 10, 10, 11, 12, something like that. Very tricky and very unique. I know it can blow here a little, but it just seemed like extra gusty and kind of switching directions for a little, so it made it tough.

Q. Any particular like wild clubs you had to hit from certain distances?

ERIC COLE: Well, I hit 60-degree into No. 1, which I don't think I've ever hit 60-degree, lob wedge, into No. 1.

Q. What do you think you had there?

ERIC COLE: I only had like 85 yards or 90 yards. Normally that's a 9-iron into that green for me. Yeah, there was a lot of them. I hit sand wedge I think on 3, which normally 3's -- we played up a tee a little bit, but it was 150 yards adjusted. I don't hit my sand wedge that far. That was definitely unique.

The balls were also bouncing a lot. It was pretty firm this morning, so it was wild.

Q. How do you go about these days when it's blowing like it is?

ERIC COLE: I think you have to be patient obviously, like an old cliche. But I was driving the ball pretty well, so in general I kind of -- I guess later in the day I didn't drive it as well, but starting off I was driving it well so it kind of made it a little easier, a little more stress free as far as playing in those conditions.

Q. And how did you feel on your last hole, just wanted to get in?

ERIC COLE: No, I hit it left and hit it left again. It wasn't the way you want to play 18 here, for sure. That left rough is pretty thick. Then got it over the green and a bad lie and I kind of just wanted to be able to finish the day, yeah, and just say it's over at least.

Q. This course is already tough and then you're will battling the wind. Just kind of talk about that.

ERIC COLE: Yeah, sure. The South course has had U.S. Opens, I played a U.S. Open on the South course. So it's an unbelievably challenging course to begin with in normal conditions. To add the wind made it -- like I said, it was tough, but it was also tricky. It was just an overall combination that made scoring really, really difficult.

Q. You got off to a pretty solid start in the season, top-5 in Sony and coming here missed a couple cuts. What was sort of your mindset coming in here?

ERIC COLE: Yeah, no, I think I kind of viewed it as I want to be able to play well here, I want to show myself that I can do it. That was kind of my outlook on it. If I play well, I feel like I can play well almost anywhere, so that was kind of my proving it to myself a little bit.

But you're right, I don't have a great history here. I think it's because you have to drive the ball so well and there's not a lot of room to recover. If you do hit it in the rough, you're taking a huge swing at a wedge or something to get it out by the green. It's a little -- I don't think that really suits my game like being able to recover, I kind of like that. Then it's difficult to putt these poa annua greens. So when you put those things together it's not a great recipe for me, but like I said, if I play well, I think I can play well almost anywhere.

Q. Finally, just one of a few players to finish, how satisfying is it for you to be done and not have to go out there and finish --

ERIC COLE: Yeah, it feels great. I obviously wish I wouldn't have bogeyed the last hole, but to be done and just be able to say that a day like this is over and I don't have to finish the round off is a great feeling and looking forward to relaxing the rest of the day.