

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
January 30, 2025



MAVERICK McNEALY (-4)

Q. Maverick, talk a little bit about your round today if you can, please. Four under.

MAVERICK McNEALY: Yeah, it was nice being first off, definitely got a good flow and a good rhythm with the pace of play. I had a really comfortable partner, Chuck Robbins. Played a lot of golf with him. He's CEO of Cisco and one of my partners for the last now six years. So it was a really fun, comfortable pairing.

Felt like I just improved and hit it better throughout the day. Made a good putt on the first. Had a lot of actually lip-outs out there. I felt like I was getting better as the day went on. Had a few putts didn't go, one or two went in and pretty clean card today.

Q. How challenging is it to prepare to play a tournament at two golf courses?

MAVERICK McNEALY: It's definitely more challenging, but this is my seventh AT&T pro-am and I've played Spyglass Hill at least six or seven times a summer in the NCGA Junior and the NCGA Match Play, so it's a golf course I'm really familiar with. Obviously there's changes over the years, but that definitely helps a lot. It's one of the perks of not being a rookie anymore.

Q. How good is it to get Spyglass out of the way on a nice calm day?

MAVERICK McNEALY: It definitely is nice to play this one clean. If you shoot anything in the 60s out here, you feel pretty good about yourself. That being said, conventional wisdom at AT&T is you want to be at Spy on a windy day because you've got a lot more greens that are sheltered than out at Pebble. Either way, I can't imagine I shot myself in the foot in any way shooting 68 out there, so I'm pretty happy with that.

Q. You seemed to pick up steam there on your back nine. What changed? Did anything change?

MAVERICK McNEALY: Not really. I always feel like if you're under par standing on the seventh tee, you're in a good spot because the first five out there are pretty challenging, first six are pretty challenging.

I three-putted 7 for par, which was a bummer. I had a good par save on 8, that was a momentum saver for me. Then had a few looks. Had to -- almost made birdie on 11 from just over the green, good putt on 12, almost holed approach shot on 13, hit a really good wedge in there on 15 and almost birdied 16, almost birdied 17, almost birdied 18. It was a solid back nine.

Q. You're one of several guys who we talked to the other day who received a series of existential queries from the media.

MAVERICK McNEALY: Yeah.

Q. I'm wondering, is it a relief to be focusing on the golf again?

MAVERICK McNEALY: My job is to hit great golf shots and compete and win and that's what I'm trained for. I don't have an MBA, I've never run the Tour nor do I think I could run the Tour. My expertise is hitting golf balls and chipping and putting and that's what I love to do. So pretty excited to be playing some golf.