

THE PANAMA CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 QUOTES

January 31, 2025



NEAL SHIPLEY (-6)

Q. Neal, your day got off to a tough start on 16 to resume Round 1, but you turned things around nicely for the rest of the morning for 7 under. Take us a little bit throughout your day.

NEAL SHIPLEY: Yeah, just unfortunate, kind of had a comedy of errors to finish the day yesterday and kind of staring bogey or double down the barrel. Just played really solid after that. I was 1 over at that point after making double on 16 and knew that I had plenty of holes in front of me to make a charge and get up the leaderboard, make the cut. Yeah, we did that and a little more.

Q. Making the cut here was one of the goals. You're now in contention with your number heading into the weekend. Talk to us about the importance of making this cut after missing both events in the Bahamas and knowing that the reshuffle is approaching, you need to score some important points before that.

NEAL SHIPLEY: It's just nice to have that monkey off my back. It definitely is a lot of stress involved in the reshuffle, but I know that I'm a quality player and kind of just a matter of time when I played well and made a cut and was in contention. I expect to be in contention, I feel like I'm that type of player, especially on a difficult golf course like this. Really excited for the challenge.

Q. It's the toughest course on Korn Ferry Tour for the last two seasons. It shows, why, right? So what's going to be key this weekend to stay atop and try to get it done?

NEAL SHIPLEY: Just hitting a lot of fairways and greens, going to make a few putts. You don't need to play too aggressive out here. It really is like PGA TOUR major style golf out here where you're not hitting at pins. The greens are firm so you're not spinning back wedges. You've got to be aware of your runouts, you have to be aware if you're downwind how much the ball is going to release and all those other things. I think I do really a good job with my distance control and striking my irons well and that's why I play well here.

Q. Tell me about the beautiful approach on No. 9, your last hole today. We got it on video.

NEAL SHIPLEY: Yeah, I had 168 hole, downwind a little bit. That side of the green, that left portion of the green there is a little bit downgrain so you're expecting kind of a nice, good



first skip.

We were kind of between clubs and my caddie and I kind of talked it out and just decided we were going to try to hit a pitching wedge as hard as we can because we knew no matter how hard we hit that club, it wasn't going to go long of the green.

Yeah, I hit out of the screws and right at the flag and took one really nice hop and looked like if it spun back at all, it would have taken a little bit (indiscernible.) Yeah, good shot, good way to end the day, get to 7 and 6 overall. Yeah, just really happy with my round.

Q. One last thing. Is this your first time playing in South America or did you have a chance as an amateur to come down here?

NEAL SHIPLEY: No, this is my first time coming down here. My Spanish is really no bueno, so that's been an adventure kind of navigating down here, but it's been a lot of fun. The hospitality at the club here has been amazing and people in Panama are super friendly. Definitely exceeded my expectations and really excited for next week in Bogota, too. I heard great things about that event as well.

