

THE PANAMA CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 3 QUOTES

February 1, 2025



JOHNNY KEEFER (-10)

Q. Johnny, you were down by 1 with two holes to play, great up-and-down on 17 and a magnificent shot on 18 to grab a one-shot lead heading into the final round. Take us through those final two holes.

JOHNNY KEEFER: Yeah, no, it was a good day kind of mixed with some really good shots and some really bad shots. I unfortunately didn't hit two of my best shots on 17 but glad to make the putt there. Then I hit a really good drive and hit a really good second shot. Third shot didn't have to be good, which is great.

Q. You hit it to 10 inches on 18. Take me through that shot.

JOHNNY KEEFER: Yeah, we had 150 yards and kind of all day we had been trying to judge the wind. We had a pretty good idea that it was going to help quite a bit. Ball flies far here, especially compared to where I am in Texas. You know, with the heat and with the wind going downwind, we hit a nice little 50-degree, one-hopped up there to a few inches.

Q. What else stands out from today's round?

JOHNNY KEEFER: Yeah, I think I just played a really solid round, nothing super special. Felt like I rolled it really well, gave myself a lot of opportunities with irons hitting a lot of greens in reg and giving myself a lot of good looks. I thought it was about time that I made another birdie. No, I was really pleased with today's round and really excited for tomorrow.

Q. It was a tight battle between three young guns in that last group. You have a one-shot lead over Davis, who was playing with you, and Pierceson. Tomorrow it's going to be more of the same, a lot of guys close with a chance to grab this one. Tell me about that.

JOHNNY KEEFER: Yeah, no, I understand coming from Americas, I knew that there were a lot of days where it was a really easy course and you kind of knew that you had to keep the foot on the pedal, and then there were some hard courses where even if you made a bogey, you could still kind of crawl your way back.

So I understand that leading and sleeping on a lead is always going to be tough, but at the same time it's foot on the pedal. Just give myself as many opportunities to do the same thing I've been doing all week. Pins are going to change, but my attitude's not and we're going to keep firing.



Q. As we spoke early in the week, you got in that position several times quite often last year on PGA TOUR Americas. That was only a few months ago, so there's a lot to draw from from those experiences, right?

JOHNNY KEEFER: Yeah, 100 percent. It's still fresh in my memory. I still feel like I'm playing really good golf and obviously I've already proved that to myself this week. Tomorrow I'm just going to go out and swing freely, have some fun and enjoy the day.

Q. Finally, how does it feel to be in contention to be in this position and have this chance in only your third career start on the Korn Ferry Tour?

JOHNNY KEEFER: It means so much. I mean, I have such a great support group behind me between my sponsors, my family and my coaches. They've done a lot of work behind the scenes for me so that I can go ahead and do these things on the course.

Regardless of how I finish tomorrow, I'm going to be pretty satisfied, I think my team's going to be pretty satisfied and we're just looking to go out and have some fun.

