

SAM ARNOLD (-3)

Q. Now joined by Sam Arnold here at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

Opening with 69, your first round on the Champions Tour, how was it out there for you?

SAM ARNOLD: Oh, it was great, very surreal. I started out pretty hot, I birdied the first two holes. Just kept on cruising, turned at 4 under. I had one bad swing, made a double and finished at 3 under. Really excited.

Q. Can you tell us what this week has been like for you? Monday you qualified into the event. What has this been like for you?

SAM ARNOLD: Well, I'm a PGA member and I qualified for the National Championship down at Port St. Lucie, so that starts Sunday. I asked if I could be at two places at once, but I guess that's physically impossible.

So I haven't really played that much as far as posting my individual score. I just signed up for a pre-qualifier last Friday and played well there, got into Monday and got into here. It's been crazy. I didn't pack enough clothes or bring enough contacts or anything. I stay down here for Easter and had a great Easter with my sister and brother-in-law and his family. It was fun.

Q. So you're staying with them this whole week?

SAM ARNOLD: Yeah, yeah, I've been staying with them, but they're probably getting sick of me. I had to kick my nephew out of his room to get his bed. That was interesting.

Q. The bed is Spider-Man themed?

SAM ARNOLD: Well, kind of. Ryan called me and did a phone interview, and you know how phone interviews go, but I told Charlie, my nephew, I said I wanted to read this to you first before you hear it from anybody else. He got all mad because it's not a Spider-Man theme, so we hugged it out and we're all good now.

Q. What's the strategy to carry this momentum into the weekend?

SAM ARNOLD: Yeah, just keep doing what I'm doing. This is a great facility. I love the golf course, it suits my eye. And the greens are fantastic so I've been putting -- knock on wood, I've been putting very well.



Q. How many times have you tried to Monday qualify?

SAM ARNOLD: Well, it started about, I'd say about three years ago when I turned 50. I went to Q-School and didn't do too hot. Then I went again and almost made it. And last year I made it to the finals and that gave me the confidence.

I've been working on my game religiously. I think my confidence is getting there. These guys are so good out here, it's crazy. I made one bad swing today and I went from 5 under to 3 under and you just can't make those mistakes when these guys are that good.

Q. What happened there, OB?

SAM ARNOLD: Yeah, yeah, it just got up into the wind and it ended up being about three feet out of bounds. Didn't really faze me. I made a double and I finished par-par. Two decent looks at birdies, I was OK with that. This is a good golf course. You have to hit it well to score and if you let one loose, it will cost you.

Q. How does it feel at this stage of your career seeing your name above some of the other legends on the Champions Tour?

SAM ARNOLD: That's crazy. You know, I qualified for the PGA in 2006 and I was very starstruck. I still have that feeling today seeing the guys in the locker room, on the practice range. It's just neat. Seems like it was just yesterday I was at Medinah playing and still having the same butterflies and being nervous. Thank the Lord that I'm learning how to control those nerves a little bit.

Q. Just kind of have a peace about the week when you started?

SAM ARNOLD: Yeah, I really don't have anything to lose. I have a great job back home. I've been at my facility for 28 years and they're very supportive. They really support employees with work-life balance, and it gives me the opportunity to get out and do the things that I love.

My wife is very supportive. I've been traveling a lot and she's like, get out the door, go have fun and play hard. If I didn't have a spouse like that, I don't know if I would be playing.

Q. Where does your family live that you're staying WITH here?

SAM ARNOLD: Just north of Cumming, so it's about a 45-minute drive. It's almost perfect because it gives me time to, I don't know, relax and forget about today. But today is a good one, I don't know if I want to forget about today, 69 was pretty solid for me today.

