

VERITEX BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES

April 25, 2025



ZACH JAMES (-17)

Q. Zach, great day, 36 holes, 17 under on those rounds. I mean, just sort of take me through the day, maybe some of the highlights that you can remember from the rounds.

ZACH JAMES: It's been a long day, that's for sure. Thirty-six, teed off at, what, 9:20 this morning and it's 7:45 right now, getting close to dark.

The first round I got off to a pretty good start, I kind of got hot with the irons. I hit eight of the first 18 holes. I had tap-ins on six of 'em for birdies and really didn't make any mistakes.

Funny thing was we had those rain delays last night and I spent about two hours in my garage. I only live about 40 minutes from here, so I kind of was messing with my putting mat, was messing with the grip on my putter. I swapped it out and changed it for today and it worked, putts started going in, made the ones I needed to. It's a lot of golf, kind of to grind your way through it today. We just tried to stay patient knowing that we had a lot of golf left.

Q. What's the hardest part about a day like today?

ZACH JAMES: Keeping your energy up. We've got liquid IVs that are energy, electrolytes. Just got to keep all that going to where you're not getting tired. Last couple holes I could -- actually finish birdie, par, birdie, birdie, birdie, but I could feel myself getting tired and kind of tried to limit that as much as I could.

That's the hardest thing. You've just got to eat protein bars and eat whatever you can as much as possible, just try to get food in your system. After the first 18 we had 18 minutes before we re-teed off. I went into player dining and got these two little chicken Caesar wraps and that was all I had. I think I actually only ate one of 'em, too, which is funny.

Q. How would you describe how your season's so far?

ZACH JAMES: Up and down. I think I've missed, was it four of the seven cuts? Second event of the year I finished tied seventh. The other two I was actually up there, was it last week I was T-9 after two rounds and fell apart on the weekend. The other one, was it T-14 or 16 after two rounds and then again fell apart on the weekend.

It's had its ups and downs. Hopefully this is one where I don't fall apart on the week.

Q. Take me through, I mean, just going to Southeastern Oklahoma State, like how you kind of landed there and if you thought you were going to be professional when you kind of came out of there.

ZACH JAMES: Didn't have very many offers coming out of high school. I wasn't really that good, honestly. Kind of picked it up my last two years of college. It took me five years, so there was a couple different offers I had but they were kind of smaller Division IIs and that was the one that was only 50 minutes from my hometown. It was close to home, it was cheap, got in-state tuition.

They actually had a pretty good golf team, a couple good players and made it to Nationals as a team twice I think. Towards my last two years I was up there in top of the nation for Division II and that kind of made me realize I could actually compete and try to play professional. It's my first year out here and it's been six years of it now. It's been a long struggle, that's for sure.

Q. What were you doing in the five years like between when you turned professional and got some America's status last year?

ZACH JAMES: Mini tours, state opens, stuff like that. I mean, I did Q-School every year. I think there was one year that I got injured so I had to withdraw. The one for Canada Q-School I had to withdraw because I got injured.

Just all been mini tours, state opens. Luckily I've been fortunate enough to win the Texas and the Oklahoma and then a mini tour event on the APT. It's just been grinding and waiting for Q-School to come around to try to get my chance. I've done a couple of the Mondays but not very many of them.

Q. What would it mean to you, Q-School last winter to get through and get some status out here?

ZACH JAMES: I mean, if I didn't make it through I probably was going to end up quitting playing golf this year. Honestly, like it was do or die. Fortunately enough, I played well enough to make it out here. If I didn't, it was probably just going to be Mondays, Mondays and that was going to be it, and really trying to work more and pretty much get a full-time job.

Q. Weren't you taking like a CPA --

ZACH JAMES: Yeah, I worked for a CPA, and I still kind of do a little. So like we did practice rounds Monday, Tuesday and then I came out here early, did those and went to the office and worked for him.

He's actually right over there right now, my boss, which is funny. He came out, him and his wife are here spectating and watching. I think they'll be here over the weekend, too.

Not as much as what -- not working as much as I have in the past.

Q. I was going to say, are you going to be able to keep up once we get kind of going every week?

ZACH JAMES: I hope not. I mean, the goal is to play golf full time really. I mean, whenever we're gone, we've got that five-week stretch, six-week stretch of tournaments, so that will be tough too. I'll get a little bit in, but not a lot. Then maybe whenever towards like the end of the season after it ends I'll be able to go in and work a little bit more whenever we've got time off.

Q. What are you looking forward to the most this weekend?

ZACH JAMES: Trying to play some good golf. I mean, it's a beautiful golf course. It's pretty open so you can send driver a lot pretty much anywhere. Just try to make as many birdies as possible. There's going to be a lot of guys going low especially because I don't think the wind's supposed to blow. It's just going to be try to fire at every flag and make as many as possible.