

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
September 11, 2025

**MACKENZIE HUGHES (-9)**

**PROCORE**  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**Q. Mac, in with 9-under 63 here in the first round of the Procore Championship, matches your season low. Can you describe that round for us? Eleven birdies is pretty strong.**

**MACKENZIE HUGHES:** Yeah, yeah, no, it was -- I got off to a nice start, made a bit of a bonus birdie on 2, hit a great shot in there, nice putt on 3 and good save on 4, so I kind of felt like I got some good momentum going early.

Then was really able to kind of pile it on there on the front nine. Kind of got a sense that around the turn there that things were going nicely. I had a nice feel with the putter, so it was really just about like continuing to put my foot on the gas and go forward.

I did some really nice things, I mean even like on 12 I drove it right and had to kind of pitch back to the fairway and I got up and down from 225 yards for birdie. So I did some stuff that you can't really count on all the time. Yeah, really was a nice day, obviously boosted a lot by a strong putter.

**Q. Couple back-to-back bogeys there on 14 and 15, but nice bounce-back with a birdie on 16. How did you mentally manage that?**

**MACKENZIE HUGHES:** Yeah, yeah, it was a bit disappointing obviously, especially from where I drove it on 14 and to play 15 like that, I mean, I would have loved to play those holes 1 under. I played them 2 over. So that was disappointing, but I was also telling myself walking off the 15th green I was 7 under par still and if I had that at the beginning of the day as something in my head, I would have been ecstatic.

So I knew I was playing nicely and had some good things going, so it was like just kind of look forward and not look behind you there. I think that's something that at this point in my career I'm a lot better at doing than I was five, six years ago. So it's easy to get kind of flustered there and then to maybe compound that, make some more mistakes coming in, but to kind of rebound there and to finish strong like I did was a huge bonus.

**Q. Were you thinking 59 at all, any numbers come into mind?**

**MACKENZIE HUGHES:** Yeah, so when -- I think when I made the putt on 13 and got to 9, actually in my head, I don't know why, I just had it as a 71 in my head, so I was thinking that 12 would have been enough but you obviously had to be 13. So I was thinking, well, I had to make four of the last five at that point. Sorry, four of the last six. So I got the one on 13, I was like OK, maybe a chance.

But obviously I kind of dashed those hopes on 14. It definitely crossed my mind for a second.

**Q. What was the best putt that you made today?**

**MACKENZIE HUGHES:** Best putt I made today was probably, probably 10. But the putt I made on 3 was about a 15-, 16-footer with about five feet of break, so that was really nice and kind of got me going early. But tough to pick between a few of them. There was a few good ones out there.

**Q. How has the balance been between rest and preparation between the month or so that you had off?**

**MACKENZIE HUGHES:** Yeah, I got home and took some time away from golf but I spent a lot of time, you know, getting stronger and put some work in in the gym. Felt like my -- my body felt good. I haven't really played and practiced a ton in the last couple of weeks but I'm working on some things in my swing with a new coach, Scott Hamilton. That's kind of given me some excitement and some eagerness to get out there and to work.

Yeah, I got quite a bit of rest, but also I've got three young kids so rest is not really in the cards at home sometimes. But it was a great time off. That month I had was just really nice to be home and kind of put the clubs away for a bit.

**Q. Just the importance of the FedEx fall, how much are you going to play given that you've kind of been in that position before (inaudible)?**

**MACKENZIE HUGHES:** Yeah, I mean, the goal is, yeah, to get into that top-60 and kind of set up my beginning to the year next year. I also won't play five, six events to try to chase that. I'm probably going to play three, maybe four, but the plan right now is to play here, Jackson and RSM.

Then if I was in a position where I was really close and maybe I needed to add something, I might. But I'd love to just play a few and kind of get some good rest and yeah, be home a bunch this fall. That's the plan right now, but we'll see what happens.

**Q. Any coincidence that those are places that you've won before?**

**MACKENZIE HUGHES:** No coincidence, I tend to like those places. Yeah, we'll hopefully have some good success at those ones again.