

CAMERON CHAMP (-13)

Q. Cam, let's talk about that front nine. When did you know that you had it going?

CAMERON CHAMP: I would probably say the putt on, what's it, 5, the par 3. It was a big breaker downhill. I mean, you basically (inaudible) from there, but poured it right in the middle. Same on 6, same thing. Everything just kept flowing, and for the first nine holes the hole looked pretty big for a while.

Q. And that's the thing about this golf course is you can get on nice runs but eventually it fights back. It's that type of place, isn't it?

CAMERON CHAMP: Exactly. The back side I really didn't play terrible, I just hit a few shots that kind of limited my ability to get it close to the hole. I fought hard, missed a few putts that I wish I could get back, but that's how it goes.

Q. It seems like when you get yourself in contention, you handle that situation very well. It must be nice to be back in contention.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, it is. Like I said, it's definitely been a rough month, month and a half, two months for me, but I've been working hard, so just to kind of see it slowly pay off is good.

Q. (No microphone.)

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, I know. Like I say, all this is new to me still, seeing all the courses for the first time, but I'm embracing it.

Q. Cameron, 65. If I told you at the beginning of the day, you'd probably take it. It was a really interesting way to get there, wasn't it?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, it was. The front nine was about as big as the hole's probably ever looked for me. Just everything went together. Made some good quality putts, hit some good shots. And the back nine I really didn't play bad. Like I said, I just didn't give myself enough close opportunities. Definitely happy with the way I fought all day.

When I got on that run, I kind of kept it going. So on this course I think that's kind of where you can make up shots, just kind of going quick spurts here or there. So I'm definitely looking forward to the weekend.

Q. They always say never talk to a pitcher during a no-hitter. At what point in time on

the front nine were you like, wait, what the heck is going on right now?

CAMERON CHAMP: I said the putt on 6 I was not expecting to make, and 7, as soon as I hit it halfway, I kind of knew it was in. And then on 7 -- 6, sorry.

And then 7, the par 5, I hit two great shots in there. I left myself a great putt and it went right in the center. So, you know, it's kind of hard to explain. I mean, a run like that you kind of just go with it.

Q. You weren't the only one that made the turn and then all of a sudden the wind seemed to pick up, it got pretty hot out here. It seems the golf course kind of changed from when you started to when you finished?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, a little bit, but not much. I mean, the wind got up a little bit, but like I said, I just really didn't give myself any chances. The back side I played well yesterday. I like the back side. The par 5s, you've got to hit the fairway to be able to go for it, which is the good thing about those. They're kind of tight. So yeah, you know, taking all the positives from today and looking forward to the weekend.

Q. What is it about old-school layouts, Country Club of Jackson and a 110-year-old golf course here. Something about big trees and tight fairways apparently, right?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, this course reminds me of back home really, so very comfortable here. Love the greens, love everything about it.

Q. At what point did you start noticing the crowds picking up around you?

CAMERON CHAMP: I think whenever we made the turn, because I think DJ and them were right there. They weren't watching us. Yeah, I would say definitely on the back side.

Q. You mentioned that this course reminds you of back home. Like any specific course that you grew up playing?

CAMERON CHAMP: Just all of them in general. There's a few old-style courses back home that I played a lot on. Just the tree-lined, same greens, same fairways, same tee boxes. Like I said, it's kind of nice to see since we haven't played many courses like this.

Q. (Question about the front nine.)

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, it's just one of those nines kind of everything went my way. I made a few putts I really wasn't expecting to make. Then, yeah, I just kept it going. I wasn't really thinking much. At that point it's just the hole looks a little bit bigger for a while, so you just try to make as many as you can and that's what I did. And then I fought pretty good on the back side to keep it.

Q. On 17 when you were behind that tree, looked like you switched clubs there. How key was that, I guess, decision and the execution?

CAMERON CHAMP: It wasn't key. I was just looking to see if I could get a 3-iron out of that lie. There was no chance. I just hit a hard 4-iron, just leave it short of the green and got it up and down.

Q. What's been the toughest part of the last few months for you?

CAMERON CHAMP: Just embracing failure. Out here obviously I'm a rookie and I had some early success, which, you know, I'm still young. I just turned 24, so I had a lot coming at me and distractions. I had to just really adjust and prioritize what's important to me. It was good personally, it was kind of a wake-up call. And I've been working hard, so it's just nice to see the results coming.

Q. Has there been a point in the last few weeks where you felt like the turnaround was near and a couple rounds like this were in the bag?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah. Even the last few events. I missed a few of the cuts, but I was playing well, just making a few kind of silly mistakes, so I knew I was close. Knew if I just kept doing the things I was doing, it would turn around eventually.

Q. Can you walk us through your eagle?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah. I hit a good drive there. We had 180 to the pin, 72 front, slight help, and I hit just a -- it was kind of in between clubs. I wanted to hit the hard 9-iron, so I just hit a hard 9 and left it about six, eight feet just below the hole.