
Q. Arjun, got in last minute this morning, 8 under par round for you. Could you see that coming when you got in late this morning?

ARJUN ATWAL: No. The only thing I could see was hopefully I could get around this place walking, because like I said to the other guy, Doug, I haven't played much golf. I lost my father about three months ago in India, so I went over there. You know, I just haven't played golf, and forget walking. I played 18 holes at Isleworth last Friday in our Scotch game in a golf cart and it's not the same as this place, as you guys know, so I'm really pleased I got the 18 holes in and I'm not worn out as such.

Q. Is it almost, you know, kind of with losing your father a few months ago, is it kind of be able to come out and play and getting into the event, kind of maybe cathartic a little bit, just go out and just play with no expectations?

ARJUN ATWAL: Yeah, it's basically that, because I've never had a loss in my immediate family. It's my first one, so it's really hard to deal with. And with my parents, they lived in India. My mom still lives in India. Not having seen them for all these years, it was really tough on me.

But having said that, like you said, the game's just a game. I take it for what it is now, you know, and I have nothing to prove to anybody. I've won out here, I've won on the European Tour, the Asian Tour and I'm looking forward to the 50 tour next year after March, that will be fun.

Q. When did you find out? Was it like 20 minutes ahead of the tee time this morning or were you on site and --

ARJUN ATWAL: Yeah, yeah, no, I got out here before, because I figured be here before the first tee time, so I got here around 7:30, hit a few wedges and then went in to eat breakfast and about 8:45 my caddie texted me. He's like, oh, 9:10 we might have a game. So I left my breakfast, came out, hit a few drivers and off we went. It was fun, started with three birdies in a row.

Q. And it was Nicholas Lindheim who withdrew that you replaced.

ARJUN ATWAL: Yes, I don't know who that is, but thank you, Nicholas.

Q. Obviously the situation with your dad, I'm assuming that you haven't played any golf leading up to this.

ARJUN ATWAL: Uh-uh.

Q. When was the last time that you did play?

ARJUN ATWAL: Last Friday was the first time I played since my dad passed. Before that was Barracuda, I think, or somewhere. That was the last tournament I played and that was it. I hadn't touched my clubs since, yeah.

Q. And you just mentioned the Champions Tour. You're getting close to 50, I think it's March, you said?

ARJUN ATWAL: Yeah, March of next year, yeah.

Q. What sort of -- obviously that's been on your mind because you mentioned it. Is that your next step? Is that where you're going to go?

ARJUN ATWAL: Yeah, yeah. I've already entered the finals of Q-School in Phoenix, I'm going to go for that if my body holds up. Then I think I have -- my agent was telling me I'll still have a few starts like the Senior British because of my worldwide wins or whatever.

But I'm just really looking forward to playing out there with my buddies because I really don't know too many people on this tour anymore. There's so many kids and they're like, they see me walking around like, Who's this old dude? And all my friends are out there on the Champions Tour, so I'm really looking forward to that.

Q. Just let's talk about that round today. I mean, what did you do particularly well? Staying out of your own way was probably one of them and just letting it happen.

ARJUN ATWAL: I putted really well. This is the way I used to putt. You know, I brought my old putter with me, my Craze E, and I haven't putted all that well with it even in the last few years whenever I brought it out, but today just got my old feels back. I think I led the Tour in '05 in putting and this was the putter that I putted with, and also when I won the Wyndham was this putter. So it's got like four wins, it's got a few more European wins as well, but it had gone off, the feel. Today I just felt my old feels back and I started seeing my lines and it was really fun.

Q. So it's like an old friend, but when you say you brought it back out, how long is it since you've --

ARJUN ATWAL: Oh, now, it's not like I threw it out. It's always been around. Like I'll putt with it and then certain days I put another new putter in. None of these new putters ever gelled with me and I know my speed with my Craze E, so that's why. And especially in a round like this when I haven't played a practice round this year, you know, just to get a feel of things around, it's better to have a known putter.



Q. You were talking about your body a little bit. What's kind of been ailing you that you sound like if your body holds up is what you're kind of saying?

ARJUN ATWAL: Just old, dude. It's nothing bad, it's just chronic stuff. So keep doing my yoga and I stretch a little bit, I'm good. A couple Advils, I'll be all right.

