

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
October 27, 2022

SEAN O'HAIR (-7)



Q. Sean O'Hair, 7-under 64, nice start to the tournament, four straight birdies. Just talk us through that a little bit and what it was like to get off to a good start this morning.

SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah, it was great. Just right off the bat I was hitting the shots I was seeing and had some pretty short looks at birdie and just kind of boom, boom, boom, boom and all of a sudden got some momentum. So I really didn't know what to expect coming into this week. I've been hitting the ball well, but I haven't been playing a whole heck of a lot. So it was nice to get off to a good start today. And putter wasn't quite as good as I wanted it to be, but I mean, to feel that way and shoot 7 under, I feel good with that.

Q. Yeah, as you said, it is your first start this season so not knowing what to expect, did it kind of take you offguard a little bit?

SEAN O'HAIR: You know what, I've been hitting the ball really well. I finished off my season last year hitting the ball well, so I think as far as ball-striking-wise, it's not like I'm searching for anything, I feel like I'm on a good track.

But, like I said, not playing a competitive round of golf, you never know what you're going to get. It can feel good in practice, but then you come out here and it's something totally different. So it's nice to see some of the work pay off and yeah, just hopefully I can continue.

Q. You had a top-25 here last year in your only other appearance. Last year I think it was. What did you learn from the golf course to carry that into this week?

SEAN O'HAIR: Well, today was a totally different golf course than it was last year. Last year it was blowing 30, 40 miles an hour and you had rain and whatnot. Last year was just about keeping it in play. There's some bunkers out there that are pretty penal, so just try and stay away from those, pick your spots, take advantage of the par 5s. Today, though, you had a lot of wedges in your hand and the par 5s were very gettable. There's a lot of birdies to be made out there today. So it looks like the rest of the week we're going to get some rain, and I don't know about wind, but it would be nice to get some wind and kind of that would help me with ball-striking a little bit.

Q. Do you see that as more of an advantage for you?

SEAN O'HAIR: I do, yeah.

Q. Do you feel like that might eliminate --



SEAN O'HAIR: Yeah, I think like in today's conditions where there's really no wind or anything, I mean, it's just a putting contest. Like I said, I didn't putt that well, but I struck the ball really well, so I had a lot of very good opportunities and I'm not going to hit the ball like I did the next three days, hopefully one day I will, but I'm not going to do it four days straight. Hopefully you get some tougher conditions where I can just control my ball flight and keep it in play and just hit fairways and greens. And that's kind of how it was last year, I think the winning score was, what, 15 under par? The way it's going this week though, it's going to be like 25.

Q. Among those four birdies to start and the three additional that you had, did any stand out as a specific highlight that you recall right now?

SEAN O'HAIR: You know what, this is probably -- I hit a lot of good shots that I was seeing today. Not very often do you picture a shot and you hit almost the identical shot and I did that quite a bit. I hit a really, a really strong 5-wood on No. 17. I don't carry 3-wood in my bag so I had to roast hook a 5-wood in there and I hit it about 260, so I was pretty happy with that. That was probably the best shot I've hit in a long time, so it was a good feeling.

Q. You sound excited. Does it excite you when you put together a round like this, especially the first round of the season for you? And having said that, does it kind of change your mindset or your expectation or anything for the rest of the week? How do you manage that?

SEAN O'HAIR: I just appreciate good golf. I mean, I still get a kick out of hitting great shots and playing nice rounds of golf. As far as expectations, I mean, I have no reason to have expectations. I've got conditional status, I'm 40 years old playing against a bunch of young guys and I haven't played a whole heck of a lot, so we'll just see how it goes. I feel good about my game and hopefully I can hang in there.

