

**KRAMER HICKOK (-7)**

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**Q. How did you fashion a 68 today?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** Yeah, it was blowing. I think it was the windiest round of golf I've played in a long time. Just got to keep the ball low. Hitting it really solid. I've been playing some of the best golf I've played in my whole life really in this event. The scores haven't really showed. So I just really stuck to my game plan, but just trying to keep the ball in front of you and rely on my short game, and been putting great. Just trying to play steady golf.

**Q. We talked to guys who finished earlier and we talked a lot about 15, 16, so tough out there, but how was it on the other holes, the inner part of the golf course?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** It wasn't too bad at all. There's a lot of holes out here that grab your attention and certainly 15, 16 are those tee shots, but you've got to hit a lot of good shots going around here. No. 8's a really tough shot, you're hitting 4-iron from 160, 170 yards. Like people at home, you're playing an added 40, 50 yards, this wind is just blowing that hard.

But once you get it kind of in the valley there, it lightens up a lot. Tell you what, once you come up on top, top of 9, 15, 16, it's gusting up to 35 probably miles an hour. You've got to take advantage of the opportunities that you get really. The holes where the wind's down, you really just want to take advantage of those, don't make any stupid mistakes and just try to get through those tough ones.

**Q. In some regard is it fun to play with that challenge?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** It's always fun. I really enjoy it because there's so many -- you've got to be so creative and there's so much shot shaping. The ball does things you've never seen before. I pulled 4-iron from 150 yards today and I flushed one that came up short. It's interesting golf, it's stuff that I'm not really used to even being from Texas. My TrackMan blew over on the range this morning, that's how windy it was. It is fun, though. You've just got to -- it's just a little different style of golf.

**Q. How do you feel about 16? It's blowing quite hard out there.**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** I feel very happy they moved the tee up. It was 155 yards and they could have made it 230. We were hitting wedges and 9s in there, but it was still a really difficult hole when the wind's blowing 35 off the water. I had to start a wedge over the water there just to hold the green. It's a beautiful hole. Every time I think about coming to this tournament, that's the hole I think about. Just it really grabs your attention but you can't bail out, you've really just got really be confident and hit your target.

**Q. The front nine, is it a little bit easier than the back nine, do you think?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** Yeah, I think with no wind the front's actually easier, but then when you get the wind blowing you're kind of tucked in there for the first seven holes and then you come up on 8 and the whole back nine's just brutal. There's some holes that you've got to get after it, but most of the time you're just trying to keep the wall in front of you and just par's a good score on a lot of these holes.

**Q. With the new tee, it's 150 yards?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** It was 155 yards today.

**Q. With the new tee?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** And it was a little down off the left, so it was like a 145-yard short shot. The Tour did a great job of setup today, I thought. Great job.

**Q. Gave you guys some consideration, didn't they? You're happy all around?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** Very happy. I'm very pleased with the state of my game really. Like I said, I've been playing good golf leading up to this event and now the scores are finally starting to show.

**Q. I had seen on Twitter that you've been trying out some different drivers, a la Bryson, and I wanted to ask, could you kind of talk about the inspiration for that?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** Yeah. I think there's a big speed surge right now and certainly Bryson is instrumental in I think having all these guys go after speed now. He's overpowering golf courses, but everyone talks about how far he hits it. He's one of the best putters in the game. I think just the advantage of length is just so huge and astronomical that if you can get an extra 10 to 15 yards, sometimes you're taking out a bunker. Obviously you've got to hit it straight.

I'm not necessarily a short hitter, but I'm not a long one, but I hit it straight so I was just trying to mess around. I just wanted to see if I can get maybe an extra 15 yards of carry and still be able to control it. I got my ball speed up about 8 miles an hour with it, but there's so much that you have to change when you add length to a driver. The head weight, swing weight's off, you've got to actually make the club flatter. It's just a lot of tinkering going on. I just wasn't able to get it done before coming here, but it's a work in process.

**Q. The specs, like what is it?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** So I actually had 47-and-a-half, I had my same shaft, just tipped an inch and that was as long as they could get it for me. Throwing my head directly into a

48-inch driver, my swing weight went from D-3 to E-6, which is, if anyone knows golf, that's unbelievable. That's like swinging a sledgehammer.

So I took all the weight out and I was able to get my swing speed up about 10 to 12 miles an hour, but then the smash factor wasn't there because there's not enough mass in the head. We're going to mess around with a 46-and-a-half, 47-inch driver next week whenever I'm home just to kind of find some happy medium. If I can control it, great. I mean, length is not a bad thing. And if I can't, then I'll just keep hitting my driver the way I do.

**Q. Your current one's how many inches?**

**KRAMER HICKOK:** Forty-five, or 44-and-a-half, I think.