

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
November 9, 2023

DAVIS RILEY (-7)



Q. Davis, 64, 7 under, nice playing. How would you characterize that round today?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, it was a solid round of golf. Yeah, I made a double, had one hiccup there on 16, hit it left in the hazard. But bounced back really nicely, eagled 17 and then kind of took that momentum into the back nine. Hit it really well on the back nine and made some putts, and I think I shot 4, 5 under on the back so that was really nice to do that and carry that momentum.

Q. Pretty flawless apart from that 16th hole. When you get to that tee, what's your thought process?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, it's just such a hard hole. It's into the wind today, it's 225 yards, there's nothing short, so I was kind of between clubs. I kind of backed off a hybrid and hands took over, kind of hit it left. It's one of the couple holes here where you've just got to stand up there and hit a really good shot and if you don't, you pay the price. Yeah, unfortunately hit one in the hazard there, so hopefully I can improve upon that the rest of the week. Yeah, it was a good day.

Q. I think you played here once before, right? Top-10?

DAVIS RILEY: I did, yeah, I played two years ago and did finish top-10 in my one start here.

Q. What did you learn about the course or take away from that that you can utilize this week?

DAVIS RILEY: For sure. I mean, when I played two years ago it was really windy and I was kind of expecting a little bit of that when I came here, but today it was pretty calm conditions. So it was a little bit of a different mindset as opposed to two years ago, pars went a long ways and you were just trying to keep the ball as close to the ground as possible.

So today is a little bit of a different mindset and you can attack it a little bit differently, being a little bit more aggressive off the tee, getting it closer to some greens and having some wedges in.

Q. I've got to ask you, coming here No. 65 in the FedExCup standings in the fall and obviously 51 to 60 get into these two first signature events. I mean, when you come into this week and you approach it, do you have like a goal in mind with that in the back of your mind? How do you sort of anticipate the week with that?



DAVIS RILEY: Sure, yeah. Being 51 to 60 and getting into those first two elevated events, signature events are crucial. Yeah, there's a lot to play for and yeah, I'm just trying to take it week by week. I wouldn't say I have added pressure on myself, I'm just going to try to shoot the best score I can. Hopefully I have two nice finishes to finish the fall and get into that 51 to 60.

Q. After being here a couple years ago and knowing you were coming back here this week, was there anything off the golf course that you wanted to do that you didn't do last time?

DAVIS RILEY: I kind of kicked myself when I last played here that I didn't really go out and do much, so I told myself I would. I haven't ventured too far around because we got in here later because of the charter and stuff. Yeah, I've got the whole afternoon, so maybe I'll go sit by the pool and enjoy the views a little bit.

Q. Fellow Alabama player Nick Dunlap in the field. Has he reached out for any advice ahead of this week?

DAVIS RILEY: Yeah, I spoke to Nick Tuesday and yesterday, not -- just small chit chat. He seems really comfortable. Obviously he's had a lot of experience and done really well on the big stage obviously winning the U.S. Amateur, so he seems really comfortable. That's kind of the biggest thing when you come out here and you're not accustomed to playing PGA events. And obviously he's got the skill set to do it and it's just about getting comfortable and he seems to be doing that, so I look forward to keeping up with him this week.

Q. After making the double on 16, how satisfying is it to bounce back with an eagle at the next? Does that set you up for the rest of the week?

DAVIS RILEY: For sure, yeah. I think that's a big momentum shift. Obviously I was 2 under through 6 going into that hole playing really well, missed a couple ones that I felt I could be a handful, you know, 3 or 4 under. Yeah, to bounce back and get under par going into the back nine was huge just because there's some opportunities to grab that and I think change the whole vibe for the round.

