

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
November 16, 2024

ANDREW NOVAK (-16)



Q. Andrew, no trick questions, you've been asked all of them already, but 7 under through nine holes, just a few comments about today and how well that start was especially.

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I missed a lot of putts the first two rounds and hit a good shot into 1, made probably a 12-footer or so, that just kind of got it going, seeing 'em go in, kind of kept it rolling and just got hot.

Q. You talked about the one thing that was really perplexing was the wind direction. How much of a factor was that and how much did you kind of mitigate that?

ANDREW NOVAK: Early on it was maybe swirling because it wasn't blowing very much. By the back nine there wasn't much hiding which way it was coming from. It was blowing 30 from that way. There wasn't too much discussion there, like once we got to that part about the direction, it was just how much are we adding.

Q. And how much do you rely on having won previously on the Korn Ferry Tour, how much do you rely on not only just the victory but previous good experiences just to kind of keep yourself in check? You said you're going to probably watch football tonight, nice dinner, that kind of thing. Just to come back out and do what you've done so well.

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, it's been a while since I won. I can look back on the Korn Ferry win, but that was a long time ago. I remember pieces but it's been a while. It will be a little bit different, especially coming off a low round it's always a little tougher the next day. So tomorrow will be tough, but I'm going to have fun with it. It's always nice when you have a chance to win one.

Q. People were really worried about the weather coming into today. How much of a relief is it to get the third round in the bag?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, with how windy it was, an umbrella was basically going to be useless. If it started raining, I don't know what we were going to do. I'm just glad the sun stayed out and we got it in.

Q. Obviously you started earlier today, front nine the wind wasn't horrible at least from what it looked like when I was out there and then obviously your last couple of holes it looked intense. How do you mentally just kind of buckle down when things flip in such an extreme way?



ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, luckily we had not much wind early and so I was able to get a nice rhythm going early in the round. We really didn't start feeling much wind until about the sixth hole and by then I'm 5 under through six. So I picked up a little bit then and carried some momentum, had some downwind holes, was able to take advantage of that. It kicked up again last few holes, but I was able to make some good saves, good pars, just ride some momentum.

Q. You have the 54-hole lead right now depending on how Rafael plays 18. You had the 54-hole lead in Phoenix as well. What do you take from that experience into tomorrow?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, that one's a little bit weird because we ended up playing like 29 holes on Sunday, it was really a marathon. This will be a little bit shorter day.

But definitely that was a fun experience, playing in front of huge crowds was always fun. I didn't play as well as I would have liked on that Sunday, but tomorrow I'll come out and see if I can put together a good one.

Q. (No microphone) the front side, seven out of nine holes you recorded a birdie and in at 29. How special is that?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, those tough par 3s, man. We got lucky with the wind, 1, 2, 3 and 4 would all be kind of into and it wasn't really blowing when we played 'em, then right when we get to 5 it starts picking up and blowing. That's right when we caught a downwind. Just definitely got a little lucky with the timing there, just made some putts. I really hit it that well the first two rounds, but I made nothing, I left 'em all out there. But then today they all went in. My caddie told me just stay patient, when they go in, it's going to get crazy and they finally went in today.

Q. They were going in. Does the hole look really big when you're on a roll like that with the putter?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, definitely felt really good. Obviously once the wind started picking up and the ball started moving around basically before you're hitting it made it a little tougher. It was really, really nice to see 'em go in.

Q. And you had some nice up-and-downs, 11 and 13. I thought the two-putt at 18 was a great two-putt. You kept it together on that back nine.

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, I was very proud not to take one -- you know, there were a few poor swings on the back nine, but a couple really nice chips to make up for it. Then the two-putt on 18 was big, especially after three-putting 17.

Q. So talk about tomorrow, golden opportunity obviously. What are you doing



tonight, just relaxing?

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, going to watch some football probably. Yeah, it's just going to be nothing too crazy, get a good dinner.

Q. What about the weather tomorrow, have you looked at it?

ANDREW NOVAK: It's not supposed to be as windy as today I don't think, but I do think it will be up a bit. I haven't looked that closely though.

Q. And lastly, talk about what a challenge it is when you hit 15, really 14 -- well, really 13. You have that four-hole stretch, it's pretty darn hard.

ANDREW NOVAK: Yeah, you just know how it is, especially with 14 downwind. The first 14 holes you can kind of get after that, there are some opportunities there, but once you hit 15 it gets real real quick, 15's no joke. With the wind today obviously 16 is the way it is and 18 was playing crazy. It's just survive and advance at this place.

