

KRAMER HICKOK (-9)

Q. Kramer, nice playing. It's a difficult couple of days, but you're in the mix. That must make you happy.

KRAMER HICKOK: Absolutely. It's been a good last three days, wind's been howling and just been hitting a lot of greens, keeping the ball in front of me and eliminating mistakes. Got one more tough day tomorrow, but see what'll happen.

Q. What are you liking about this golf course the most that's allowing you to score the way you are?

KRAMER HICKOK: I like the bermuda. I grew up on bermuda my whole life and we don't get to play a whole lot of bermuda courses out here on Tour. I just like it, you know. I like playing in the wind, I enjoy every aspect of it. And it's not a bomber's golf course, you've really got to be pretty strategic off the tees and just keep the ball in front of you.

Q. Aside from keeping the ball in front of you, what are you particularly doing well this week that's allowed you to be in the mix here?

KRAMER HICKOK: Hitting a lot of greens, and my speed control's been awesome with the putter. I haven't had a three-putt yet and the mistakes I have made I've been able to rebound with some good short game and just keeping the ball in the right spots. I haven't really punished myself yet. And as much as the wind's blowing, you've really got to be pretty conservatively smart. There's a lot of shots out here that really grab your attention, you've just really got to say, hey, I've got to commit to this one. There's a few of those today. Just hitting it solid. Every aspect of my game I'm really happy with. It's been a tough last couple years, but I've been telling people I'm playing the best golf of my life now, so I'm just excited to be able to have the scores be able to show that.

Q. The wind, how would you describe the change from yesterday and how that made the course different?

KRAMER HICKOK: It was so different today. I was telling my caddie, Billy, it's the first time I've ever used a compass on the greens for the wind because literally you've got a putt that's a half a cup out left and the wind's off the right, it will blow it left. So you're hitting -- yesterday I'm hitting driver on some holes and today I'm hitting 3-iron to the same spots. It's just a completely different golf course. I had the advantage of being able to play last year, we had this wind last year on the final round so I was able to look back on some of those shots from last year. But looks like tomorrow it's going to be right back out of the southwest, which it's been the first two days, so it will be a whole different golf course

tomorrow, too.

Q. Hole 11 in particular, did your second shot kind of balloon into the wind?

KRAMER HICKOK: Yeah. I actually, it was 135 yards and I thought I hit a 165-yard shot with an 8-iron and it came up 20 yards short and that's just because of elevation. It's already playing 12 down, so the wind's just going to hit it that much more. It's just hard to get yourself a 6-iron or a 7-iron from 135 yards. It's just such a feel game right now the way the course is playing, which is a lot of fun. You don't get that a lot on this tour. It's just you've got to open up the imagination and just hit different shots. It's fun.

Q. On that hole yesterday, what would you have hit?

KRAMER HICKOK: So 11 yesterday I had 35 yards to the pin on my second shot and the pin was in the back. I was five yards, 10 yards off the front edge yesterday and today I bombed the drive and had 8-iron and left it 20 yards short. So my 8-iron today ended up in the same spot that my driver was yesterday. It was wild.

Q. Just kind of speak to what it means to be in the mix, one back, have a chance at this level. You've won on the KFT, now you're right there on Sunday to chase your first title out here.

KRAMER HICKOK: I'm excited. I love being in this position. This is why we work hard. And I've been grinding a lot back home and we've done a lot of good work back home with Cameron and the guys at Artisan -- Mike Taylor, Ryan Lambert -- back home. We've switched up my clubs a little bit, got new shafts in and then switched putters. The part of my game that was the worst part of my game the last few years are now starting to be my strengths, so it's just exciting. I like being in contention and it's just -- got a great leaderboard and we'll see what happens tomorrow.

Q. And literally the first time using a compass in a tournament round out here?

KRAMER HICKOK: On the greens, on the greens, yeah. I've never -- I'm asking Billy to get the compass out and say what's the wind doing on this putt, because you have to factor that in so much just because the wind's blowing so hard. It's different, it's fun and you've got to embrace it.

Q. Fred Funk, age 64, making the cut. I know you know him a little bit, and Taylor. What does that say about him to make the cut at that age?

KRAMER HICKOK: Oh, he's still got it obviously. I think he chipped in which he thought was going to be to make the cut, ended up being 1 under. I think he was T-32 yesterday. I don't know how he played today, but obviously he's still got a ton of game. He always has. He's probably -- I think he won THE PLAYERS and I don't know how many other events, but he's just a ball-striker, too. That's awesome to see that. And I don't know what he's got going

on with Champions Tour stuff, but I wouldn't be surprised if he got a few Ws this year.