

GENE SAUERS (-8)

Q. Well, you shot 65 here last year in the first round and you went one shot better, you must like this place?

GENE SAUERS: I really do. What is there to not like about this place? I won the Open there two years ago and I get a five-year exemption into here. This is great, my family loves it. The golf course suits me, I'm playing pretty good golf, so what the heck. Just try to make it a great week.

Q. You must have been sad last year there was no third round?

GENE SAUERS: Well, yeah and no. I was actually playing pretty good. I think I started out about seventh or eighth, and I think I might have made a birdie or something. But anyway, I got to like fourth and they ended up calling it. It could have went one way or the other way, who knows. We couldn't play it anyway, the palm trees were about to snap.

Q. Good feeling waking up this morning and not seeing blowing winds?

GENE SAUERS: Yes, it was. I looked at it this morning, about 11:56 it's going to start blowing. No, we got lucky and thank goodness it didn't blow. Well, what happened to it? Where did it go?

Q. It's supposed to be here tomorrow.

GENE SAUERS: You never know around here. You've just got to play your game and just try to eliminate mistakes and just give yourself opportunities.

Q. What did you do right today? Everything?

GENE SAUERS: Pretty much everything. I made one mistake on No. 10. I was in between a 3-iron and 4-iron and I kind of babied a 3-iron and I hit it way left and it bounced, bounced a few times and it went into the lava a rock. Lava rock right up against my ball and I actually chipped it out in order to not take an unplayable. I got up and down to save par on 10, made about a 12-footer for par, so that kept me going. Then I made two or three birdies in a row.

Q. You were aware Rocco had gone 7 under?

GENE SAUERS: I think I saw it somewhere around there, yeah.

Q. 10 was the hole that he eagled, so you should look at whatever --

GENE SAUERS: Yeah, no kidding.

Q. Was there a number in your head before the round that you thought with no wind you maybe had to get to?

GENE SAUERS: Well, 67, 66. And like I said, I gave myself a lot of opportunities today and the putter worked today, so I'll take a 64. Just got to keep going and just hope that wind doesn't really blow these next few days. But I know it will probably blow one day. You've just got to stay cool and calm and just try to do the best you can, try to keep that ball low and do whatever you can.

Q. You've got a lot of company, it's not like you're 10 shots ahead.

GENE SAUERS: Oh, sure. All these guys are great. You've just got to keep putting that hammer down just trying to get away from them. You know they're going to be right there chasing you at the end.

Q. How were the greens today? Rocco said they were slower than normal.

GENE SAUERS: They were a little bit slower, yeah. I left a lot of them short. They said they weren't going to cut the greens because of the wind, so who knows what's going to happen tomorrow. They rolled good, they're smooth, they're fine. I'm guessing they're around 11 and a half, which is a good speed.