

ADVENTHEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP
ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
May 21, 2022



SAM STEVENS (-15)

Q. Sam, right now, sole leader. I know there's a couple groups behind you, but how does it feel after three rounds heading into the weekend with the lead?

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, it feels good. I had a lot of fun today. Obviously I haven't been leading or haven't been in this position yet this year, but I'm excited for tomorrow. I was pleased with the way I played. I was a little loose on maybe the last four, five holes, but that's all right, you're allowed to hit a bad shot from time to time. So yeah, I'm excited and it was a good day.

Q. Did you catch yourself looking at the leaderboard at all today?

SAM STEVENS: Not really. Definitely not to start the day because I was maybe four back to start the day so there was no need to check early. I saw I birdied 17 I looked at the leaderboard and saw I was in the lead, which was great. I wasn't sure how everyone behind me was playing, but it wasn't playing super easy and I knew I was definitely making up ground.

Q. Back-to-back top-25s, do you think that momentum kind of helps you coming into this week?

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, definitely. I've been playing well. I've been playing well all year, just maybe haven't been putting as well as I'd like to. I've been putting better the last two or three weeks, so I think that's definitely helped me kind of have a little bit more consistent game.

Q. Bogey-free today, you were just mentioning the putting, do you think that's what's really sticking out and helping you the most?

SAM STEVENS: Yeah. I mean, I putted really well today. I hit it great though, I really did until the last maybe three or four holes like I was saying. And that was kind of my game plan because I knew it was playing a little harder today with the north wind and just a little colder, so I was trying to stay patient and play to the middle of the green and take my chances when I could, and I did a really good job of that. So my ball-striking was actually really nice, but the putting always holds it together.

Q. I think this is the highest after 54 holes since Q-School last year. Do you think you're going to kind of draw from that at all or is it completely different now?

SAM STEVENS: I wouldn't say it's completely different. Anytime you're in contention it's a

similar feeling. Yeah, I've been fortunate enough over the last couple years to be in contention a lot, whether it's in Latin America or on the mini tours or at Q-School last year. Yeah, sometimes I've gone out and I've played great when I'm in contention and sometimes it hasn't gone my way, but I'm excited for tomorrow and ready to get out there and get after it.

Q. And last question, being from Wichita, does it help? Do you feel like you kind of have the home field advantage? I saw you have some group here with you.

SAM STEVENS: Yeah, yeah, there's been a couple of people, friends and family that have come up. I haven't been home in four weeks now, so it's nice. My wife came up this week and our two boys came up earlier today, so it's been great to get to see family, especially when you're out of town for as long as some of the stretches we're on. So that's been good and it feels good to have people out there cheering you on.