

First-Round Transcripts | Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron Thursday, August 18, 2022

PHILIP KNOWLES (-10, Leader)

City Plays From: Jacksonville, Florida | Turned Pro: 2019 | College: University of North Florida
Exempt Status: Additional Qualifying Tournament Finishers

On his first-round 10-under 61

I had two three-putts on the front nine, both on par 3s, both bogeys. They didn't feel like they deserved to be bogeys necessarily. The first one was pretty bad, I guess, awful first putt, that's for sure. Only blemishes on the card and really the only ones that were close to being bogeys. Just drove it pretty well. I got some good breaks for sure. Hit it in the rough three or four times. One time I had to chip out, but the other three times, I had basically a perfect lie and a clean shot which is really important. If those end up in bad lies, then those can turn. I made an eagle on one of them, a birdie on the other and a birdie on the other. So those three holes, I played 4-under, and if those were bad lies, that's at least four shots right there. You have to have good breaks to play good golf, so I got them today and I was fortunately able to take advantage of them.

On his mentality at the turn

I just kept telling myself to stay patient, stay aggressive. The golf course can mend itself to a lot of birdies if you put yourself in good positions and you can get a good feel with the putter. We're on day one of four days. It's a marathon. I played great today but I just kept telling myself, 'whatever I shoot today, that's not going to win anything.' Someone's going to have to get to 20 or 25 or whatever the number's going to be. Just tried to knock off as many today as I can, get a little rest and see if we can knock off as many as we can tomorrow.

On playing his way into the Finals last week and now holding the 18-hole lead

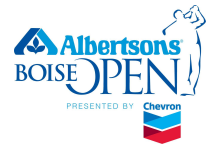
I've been playing really good, solid golf for a few months and the scores hadn't really been actualizing. I've been telling myself to stay patient for months now. It's not like I just caught fire in two weeks. You can go back - I was playing well in Greenville three months ago. I was right there near the lead in the middle of the front nine and ended up finishing 12th or 13th. It was there, but I made a couple of bogeys, a couple of mistakes. That's kind of been the story for the past few months. I think in Springfield, Illinois, I made the most birdies in the field and I lost by eight. The bones of my game have been so good for months now, and it seems like I'm just catching fire all of a sudden at this peak time. Honestly, it just feels like this has been coming for me. Not to say that I'm going to go shoot 10-under every day, but it's been really rewarding last week and this week to see that patience pay off.

On if his 61 marked his lowest round ever

It's my lowest round in competition. I shot 61. I've shot 11-under on a par 72, and I shot 10 today. I've shot 60, just not in a competition round.

On if he felt like he was playing well

Honestly, I wish I was wearing some type of heart rate monitor because I never felt like my heart rate really got that elevated. It felt like I was supremely in control of everything that I was doing and so there was no need to be fearful. I was driving it well. I was swinging it well. I was wedging it well, chipping it well, putting it well. There was no need for me to feel like I'm going to make a couple bogeys coming in. I think that played a huge part and my heart rate stayed pretty steady and kind of transcends over into the score.



MIN WOO LEE (-8, Solo-second)

City Plays From: Perth, Australia | Turned Pro: 2018

Exempt Status: 126 - 200 PGA TOUR Non-Member FedEx Cup Points List

On his first-round 8-under 63

I definitely putted well. I holed the putts that I needed to if I missed the green. Then I holed a few putts coming in. But it was a very solid round. Not much went wrong. I hit it good off the tee and just fluid wise, it was flowing. It was like a waterfall on the back nine. I think I went birdie-eagle-birdie or something and threw in another birdie. It just kind of clicked and I'm happy with the way it went.

On his 5-under stretch on Nos. 14-17

I holed a few putts. I drove it on 15, drove it with a 2-iron onto the green and holed a 45 footer. Like I said, it all kind of kept going. I was missing putts by just a little bit and it was nice to have a long putt to drop. That's just the stretch that you can do on this golf course. It's gettable and you have to stay patient no matter what. Those four holes especially, you can get under par.

On his career path up to this point

I started out on the European Tour and just missed my card by probably a shot and then it was a bit of a kick in the gut. I ended up winning one of the tournaments down in Australia, the (2020 ISPS Handa) Vic Open, and that kind of got things going, got my card and then I won the Scottish Open the year after. That was a really big confidence boost because it was just before The Open and a lot of the big guns were out there and ended up beating them. That was a really special moment. This year, I've done really well in the majors. It was my first time playing a full schedule of majors. I didn't play too good in the regular PGA TOUR events but we're trying to play good in the majors. I guess I can get a pat on the back for that. I haven't really played too many courses that are scoreable like this so it's nice to have a bit of a change. It's been a pretty grinding season this year.

On the heat expected Friday

The ball's going to go further, that's for sure. I think after lunch I'm going to hit a few balls and see how the ball travels. We've known that it's going to be hot. Today actually was not too bad. I thought it was going to be hotter but it was fine.