



Lake Charles Championship Second-Round Transcripts | Friday, March 25, 2022

Vince India (-9, Co-Leader)

City Plays From: Chicago, Illinois | Turned Pro: 2011 | College: University of Iowa
Exempt Status: Top 75 on 2020-21 Regular Season Points List (thru 2022)

On his bogey-free 4-under 67 today...

"It was pretty cold and chilly early, and I just tried to hit fairways and greens, take care of the easy holes out there. I pitched and putted pretty well. The short game is pretty nice and I took advantage of those easy holes."

On the biggest difference between yesterday and today...

"The ball wasn't going anywhere early on. It was probably 50 degrees for a while, overcast and blowing. It was going pretty short early."

On whether there was a particular shot that stood out from his round...

"Not particularly. I thought my game around the greens was super solid. I put a little bit of work in early on this week. I'm pitching it and chipping it pretty nicely, so when I hit a squirrely shot with an iron, I let it roll off the shoulder and say, 'Well, I can go get this up and down.' That's been the key this week so far."

On what he thinks about this inaugural event...

"It's cool. It's a fun place. It kind of surprised me a little bit. It's a nice spot to be. I think I'd rather play here with a bunch of buddies on a bachelor party trip instead of grinding it out in 30-mile-per-hour winds, but I like Lake Charles."

On whether he's staying on property at the casino...

"No. That's a bad idea. [Laughs] Why would you do that?"

On how his game feels right now...

"It feels pretty good for this early in the year. Usually that's not my cup of tea. I did a lot of good things in the offseason to get ready for this time of year, get ahead of the ball. Years past, I'd wait until the middle of the season to start playing well. It's in a good spot."

On going through Korn Ferry Tour Q-School in the past and whether he's come out firing hoping to avoid going back...

"Like, every year. That's always in the back of your mind, but I'm ready to get off this Tour. I have bigger things in mind than going back to Q-School."

On getting to enjoy an offseason and not worrying about reshuffles for the first time...

"It just makes for a little less stressful offseason. I think it makes for a less stressful offseason, honestly. And then you can do whatever you want. You can stay home and sit on the couch and watch football as long as you want, and you won't have to worry about going to Mobile, Alabama for Second Stage. If anything, peace of mind, honestly. That helps going into this year."



On the birdie putt at No. 18...

"I was indecisive about the read. I thought it might have squiggled back at the right at the end. Halfway through the putt I'm like, 'Oh, that's pretty good.' All of a sudden, it started moving back to the right and I went, 'Don't you do it,' and it somehow hung on to the right lip. I got lucky. I guessed right."

On what he did in the offseason...

"Immediately after Evansville (for Korn Ferry Tour Championship), I went and played in the pro-scratch at Sycamore Hills. About a month later, went on a weekend trip to Erin Hills. A month later, went down to Concession (Golf Club) for a buddies trip the first week of November. That was pretty good, not for my liver or mental well-being, but everything else was pretty fun. Then we went down and spent a lot of time in Jacksonville. And Hawaii for the New Year. It rained for four straight days. That was real fun. That was spectacular."

On the course...

"It presents a lot of options. There are a lot of drivable holes out there where you have to miss in the right spots to set up angles. That's quite fun out there. It's getting firmer and faster, and I think the wind presents a little bit of a challenge. Overall, it's fun. You can make birdies out here. Not a lot of stress off the tee. You can play aggressively in spots, which is pretty cool."

Braden Thornberry (-9, Co-Leader)

City Plays From: Olive Branch, Mississippi | Turned Pro: 2018 | College: University of Mississippi
Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings (thru 2022)

On today's round compared to Thursday's

"Today we had wind all day, but it wasn't quite as bad as yesterday. It was just solid golf. Today didn't feel quite as solid. I had to scramble a few times, a couple bad swings here and there, but I was able to bounce back each time, so that was a good feeling."

On any standout shots from the round...

"Not particularly. A lot of solid shots. The key to being more up the leaderboard is actually making the birdie putts when you hit a good shot. It seems like I've been able to do that the last two weeks. When you hit a good shot to 10 feet, (I was) actually able to make the birdie and take advantage of that, because there are going to be some holes that don't go as smoothly."

On his perception of the inaugural event...

"It's been great. I'm staying right here at the Golden Nugget, just walking down each morning and using the gym, eating breakfast and going back up to the room, so it's been super easy. Haven't seen a whole lot of the city. It's been great so far. I'm down a little (gambling) so far. Maybe we'll get it back."

On his approach to tonight and the weekend...

"Same thing. Just trying to play solid golf. There is no real secret to it. It's gone well the first two days, just try and do the same thing."

On getting back in contention after a tough weekend last week...

"I think I did a really good job of that in college. I feel like as a pro I just haven't played great a lot in general. I haven't been up near the lead a lot since I've been on the Korn Ferry Tour. Just getting more and more comfortable, even today I was more comfortable than I was last week. You hear people talking about the more you put yourself in that position, and maybe it doesn't go well this week, but hopefully I can keep doing that, keep putting myself in position, and I'll keep doing better."

On what his definition of being comfortable on top of the leaderboard is...

"Last year, I wasn't there a whole lot. I had some good finishes, but a lot of them were backdoors. I'd be in 30th or 40th and play a good round Sunday. It's more just seeing your name on that first page and not thinking you have to do anything different, just accepting where you're at and keep trying to play good golf."

On being a fast player...

"I don't feel like I'm fast, but everyone tells me that. I actually didn't know I was that fast until I saw video of myself in college. When I'd start to see stuff on TV, I'd go, 'Wow, nobody else hits it that quick.' I'm very fast on the greens. Getting ready for a shot, probably very average but once I'm ready I pull the trigger pretty quick."



On what he focused on in the offseason and how he's used it this year...

"I worked a lot with my trainer in the gym and worked on my all-around golf game. I didn't feel like I had a hole in my golf game, it was just everything needed to get a little better. It was just working hard in general, working hard in the gym trying to get my body better... and I was ready to go. The start of the year, I got COVID and had to take some days off and my body wasn't feeling good the international stretch, had some back issues. But everything is clicking fully now. I'm excited about it.

George Cunningham (-9, Co-Leader)

City Plays From: Allen, Texas | Turned Pro: 2018 | College: University of Arizona
Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings (thru 2022)

On today's round...

"I actually hit it quite a bit better than I did yesterday. Yesterday I scrambled quite a bit. Today, I kept the ball a lot more in front of me. I mishit a couple drives, but they were all in the fairway. I hit a lot more greens, so today I had a lot of opportunities and a lot less wind, which made it a lot easier for us out there. The greens got pretty crispy, so you had to be cautious on where you left the ball, and the long putts you had to be pretty cautious. I actually had a three-putt on the par 5 (No. 14), only time I had an eagle putt, and I putted it down there to 4 feet and just had a dicey putt that broke hard to the right and lipped it out. Overall, the putting and chipping is what's been great this week."

On what he attributed to today being better than Thursday...

"Absolutely the conditions. When it's blowing 25 (miles per hour) like it was in the middle of the round yesterday, it makes it hard to... you stop focusing on your swing and you start focusing on hitting different types of shots. Today I was able to focus in on what I'm trying to do, putting the ball in more positions that I wanted to put it in. And on the front nine, the wind direction was a lot easier than it was yesterday. Yesterday most of the holes were in off the left, which is a pretty tough wind, especially when the water is on the left."

On whether anything about the course suits his game...

"So far I've been reading the greens really well. Made a lot of really good putts, a couple of lags. Overall, the greens are suiting my eye right now. I'm going to keep that momentum going into the weekend."

On whether something clicked the last few days...

"It's been a weird beginning of the season. My game has been what feels like is a really good spot, but what's kept me back has been my putting. Last week I didn't hit it great and putted really poorly. I did a lot of work on the putting and lots of thinking about what I actually needed to do to start putting better, and actually freed it up a little bit, a little less technical, more feeling the putts. My ball striking this whole year has been really good. The putting has what's been the big difference this week compared to the last few weeks."

On whether the start of the season has been frustrating...

"Absolutely. In (Lakewood Ranch, Florida), I don't feel like anybody could've hit the ball better than I did. Yeah, I made the cut, but I finished (T46) and I felt like I couldn't make anything once I got on the greens. It was very frustrating. It's something I've been putting a lot of thought to. It was nice having those three weeks off. I was able to put in a little work on everything. Last week, it didn't show, but this week it's showing."

On having his dad caddying and his mom in attendance...

"It's awesome. It gives me somebody to travel with...and my dad is my best friend. Every night, we play cards and hang out. He's also my coach, so it's an advantage having him out here for lots of reasons."

On the relationship between he and his dad...

"Definitely caddie-player. It took a long time to get that dynamic figured out, but we figured out it has to be very much caddie-player. At the end of the day, it's my decision. I can't let my dad's words sway what I'm going to do. It took a little while, but that's how it is."

On being T1 heading into the third round...

"It feels awesome. I think it's my first 36-hole tie for the lead. First time for that for me and I'm pretty excited about it."

On his mindset for tomorrow...

"I'm going to go to the range and hit a few more balls. Swing was still a little off today. I'm going to hit a few more to get it dialed in and get ready mentally for tomorrow."

On how distraught he was Arizona lost last night...

"To be perfectly honest, I did not watch the game last night, so not too distraught. I haven't been keeping up with them this year. I don't know where they're at."

Zecheng Dou (-4, T31 – shot course record 10-under 61)

City Plays From: Beijing, China | Residence: Dallas, Texas | Turned Pro: 2014

Exempt Status: Top 75 on 2020-21 Regular Season Points List (thru 2022)

Career Korn Ferry Tour Wins (2): 2017 AdventHealth Championship, 2019 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay

On following a 6-under 77 in the first round with a course-record 10-under 61 Friday...

“I felt like my ball striking was a lot better today, and definitely putted well. Yesterday afternoon got a little bit bumpy (on the greens), but today was smooth and pure in the morning. I didn’t play bad yesterday, just missed a 6-footer to start, then missed a 4-footer on the third and everything just went amiss. Today, everything was smooth from the start.”

On whether he came in just hoping to make the cut or if he thought he was out of it...

“I was talking to my friend this morning; he was at 3-over. We guessed the cut line would be around 2-under. Eight-under was my goal today, but after a 6-over round, it’s hard to make that come true. My target was definitely 8-under.”

On opening today’s round with a bogey...

“After that bogey, I was thinking of packing my stuff actually. Having that mindset, it wasn’t bad coming back. Everything... felt no pressure. When you think of 8-under to start, you’ve got to birdie a lot of holes and the pressure comes out. After that bogey, maybe threw that away and felt comfortable coming in.”

On breaking the course record and tying his own career-low round...

“This 61 compared to my last one, I feel like this one was a little harder because it’s windy and the course, I’m not familiar with. I played one practice round and yesterday’s first round. The last one was pretty impressive, too, because it was the third round and I was leading. It was great. Really impressed, even for myself.”

On his approach to the next two days...

“Haven’t checked the weather yet. If it’s windy, I’ll just play like today, not think too much of birdie. It feels like having \$100 going to baccarat and you’re \$2,000 down. I started with 6-over, I made the cut now, I don’t want to give myself too much pressure to finishing top-10 or win. I just want to enjoy myself on the weekend and have another good round.”

On whether the bad of yesterday was worse than the good from today’s round was better...

“Better today. It wasn’t really bad yesterday. I had one four-putt, three three-putts. The ball wasn’t dropping. The green and the wind came in together. You hit a good putt and it doesn’t touch the hole.”

On having his girlfriend, Muyu Wu, on the bag for a second consecutive week...

“You feel more secure when you have someone close around. I saw Carl [Yuan] said when he can’t see his wife for a hole, he gets really confused and frustrated. For me, that’s why I put her on the bag. I can see her every shot. It makes it easier. It feels like there’s nothing to worry about out there.”