



Second-Round Transcripts | LECOM Suncoast Classic | Friday, February 18, 2022

Zecheng Dou (-14, Solo Leader)

City Plays From: Beijing, China | Turned Pro: 2014

Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Points Standings (thru 2022)

On his second round...

"I could say it's been the same [as round one]. Really consistent, solid tee shots and iron shots are great. I made some good putts. One three-putt today, one-three putt yesterday, but it was just those mistakes that you would have leaving yourself a couple 50-footers, but I've been playing really consistent."

On if anything stood out during his round...

"I think every shot has been pretty good, nothing really spectacular."

On missing the cut in Bogota and having the weekend to recover...

"I flew in right after I missed the cut on Saturday, and it was going to be a really tough flight after if you've played four rounds in Bogota. I was going to be taking the redeye on Monday. I changed it to Saturday and got in [to Lakewood Ranch] really early, and I'm staying at my friend's place this week right by No. 9 green. I feel really comfortable coming out here. I know it's the fifth week, but after those couple of days it feels like I'm back to the start."

On what he enjoys doing outside of golf...

"I watch some videos and play video games and go for really good food."

On what video games he plays...

"PUBG MOBILE, which is actually one of my sponsor's games, so I get everything for free which is really nice."

On the next two days...

"It's good starting off with some good finishes so you don't have that pressure of thinking about keeping your card, getting your card, because it's only the fifth week, and having a good start makes you feel really relaxed. If you don't play good, there is a long season to go."

"A couple of years ago, it didn't start off really well for me, so I felt pressure. Now heading into the weekend, I'll be more relaxed and comfortable... nothing much on the mind, just play like usual and hopefully they'll be some good scores coming out."

On his bucket hat...

"I used to not wear a hat. It's good for the sun, it gets your neck too."

On his friend watching him play this week...

"We used to play golf when we were younger. He went to college (in the United States) and I turned pro, but we always kept in touch. This is the fourth year I've been out here to play. He's a really good friend."

On friend's background...

"Kymer Li. He played at Oregon."

On talking golf...

"I don't really talk about golf to anyone. Outside of the golf course I just try to keep relaxed and doing what I just said... playing video games, watching videos. I never really think about golf, it's mostly just on the golf course."

On who he plays video games against...

"Not against golfers. I have more friends in China that play. It's more classmates and guys that are older than me that play. Not golfers."

On entering a week with confidence...

"This year has been a little different for me. I come out here and feel like I'm really confident in my game. In past years, I'd have one good finish then stay off for a couple of weeks and then another good finish. It was like bumping back and forth. This year, I just feel like my game is ready to go. Coming out here, nothing really mind changing because every week has been the same for me and good golf is coming out. I just want to keep it that way. Nothing really special on that side."

On coming up short of the win in Abaco...

"You know what Carl [Yuan] said to me? Losing on the Kerry Ferry (Tour) is better than losing on the PGA TOUR. It was a good experience. Getting into a playoff is a good week. You finish solo second, it's not like something bad came up. From the beginning, if you know you're going to finish second alone, you're going to be happy. Instead of losing in a playoff and thinking over and over... I didn't think anything bad over there. I just knew I should have hit a 4-iron off the second shot on the last hole, but other than that it was great."

On his video game history...

"I used to play PC games where you have to build your own character and spend money and get the equipment. Now, this game is more just costume and more about skill. I'm probably a scratch player still. I used to be better because I would play every day, more than golf, but now I try to keep off [the game] a little bit. I only do half an hour to an hour every day... still a scratch player. I should be professional."

On why he never owned a gaming console other than PC...

"It's so hard to control and you have to bring it everywhere, it's just a little too much."

On the course...

"It's just a great course. When I play good courses, I feel really good. The greens are good, the ball rolls really good which is why I'm putting it better than last week. You could play really bad out here, too when you're not hitting it great and bad things could happen. When you have a good week, you just want to continue and you don't think much about other stuff."

Callum Tarren (-11, T2 – broke 18-hole tournament scoring record with 10-under 61)

City Plays From: Darlington, England | Turned Pro: 2015 | College: Radford University
Exempt Status (PGA TOUR): Top 50 from 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour (thru 2021-22)

On breaking the 18-hole tournament scoring record...

“I just played pretty solid all day. Started off with two birdies, which was nice. I think I birdied the par-3 in the corner (No. 15) and the tough hole, No. 16, and I just kept hitting fairways, hitting greens and giving myself chances. It’s nice to have a course record. My game has been good for a while and I’ve struggled on the PGA TOUR. You start second-guessing yourself, but this week was to come in and just play golf. It’s weird. I feel comfortable out here, and I like this golf course. Happy days.”

On how it feels knowing his game is trending in the right direction...

“It’s always nice to put the numbers on the board. I feel as though I’ve been playing good for a while now, but the putter just hasn’t been cooperating. Today, it did. I feel as though I left a few out there, if I’m being honest. I was calm. I was just playing golf, just in free flow, which is how I play my best.”

On this being a confidence boost...

“Yeah, hopefully. It’s been tough. I’ve just tried to continue to do the right things – hit it in the fairway, hit it on the greens and make some putts. But it just hasn’t been working. I actually changed grips yesterday halfway through the round. I went from conventional to claw. And the claw actually got me to the PGA TOUR, so I think I’m going to stick with the claw for the time being.”

On mentally where he is at being on the PGA TOUR but playing here...

“It’s definitely different. Just the size of the events, there’s so much going on on the PGA TOUR. There are so many people on the range, you’re under the watchful eye of the media, the TV, not that I’m afraid of that but it is a factor. This week, I signed up because LECOM is a sponsor of mine and I felt it was the right thing to do, play this event. It will give me three weeks in a row. This week was just to try and build some confidence and play the next two weeks on the big TOUR. Honda next week, then Puerto Rico. I’ve got a job to do this week. It’d be nice to win, or be in contention on that final nine holes. I’ve just got to keep doing what I’m doing, and we’ll see what happens.”

On switching his putting grip...

“I’ve tried a few different grips over these last few weeks. I’ve tried left hand low, I’ve tried claw, I’ve tried conventional. It’s tough because I just haven’t been making putts. I’m searching for something. The claw seemed to work today. I adopted it yesterday after five holes, and I was like, ‘That’s what I’m going to do.’ It behaved today. Hopefully it behaves the next few days.

“It’s been a nightmare, to be honest. My golf tee to green has been strong enough to make cuts comfortably and have good finishes, but the flatstick has just been missing in action. But I’ve said to me caddie, ‘When that lights up, it’s going to be special.’ Today was a great score. To have double-digits out there was pretty good.”



On having his fiancée and daughter following with him...

"I haven't seen them since just after Christmas. I've been away for a while. It's just nice to have them here. It's more of a peace of mind. I was missing both of them. It's good. They're leaving after this week. I wish I could have them here full-time, but that's not the case right now. It's like normal life. I've been missing them and been away. Golf, when things are going wrong, you start to question a lot of things going on in your life. I said, 'You should come out for two weeks.' It's been good to have them here. Hopefully my game keeps trending forward."

On how many times his baby daughter has watched him play...

"First time this week. She was instrumental in me getting my PGA TOUR card, with the story of me [flying back and forth](#). She came on the perfect day for me to get to (Korn Ferry Tour) Finals."

On what one word he would use to describe the last six-plus months...

"I don't think I could in one word, but it's been... getting my PGA TOUR card and having our first baby is the best thing ever. Since that's happened, I've missed eight cuts in a row since then. That's my longest streak of ever playing golf and missing cuts. Normally I'm a cut maker and just keep grinding away. It's been awful. It hasn't been nice. It sucks not playing the weekend. I've missed four or five cuts by one or two, so it's been really close. When it boils back down to it, the putter hasn't been behaving. Hopefully that's changed the cycle today."