

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
February 19, 2022



MICHAEL GELLERMAN (-17)

Q. All right, Mike, came out the gate today hot, three birdies in a row to start your round. How did that feel?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: Yeah, it was great. Those are three of the tougher holes on the course, so you don't really expect to make three birdies in a row. Although they were downwind today, so it made it a little less challenging. Anytime you can start like that it's pretty big for your round.

Q. What about the rest of your round today? Walk me through any shots.

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: Played pretty well all day. I made a couple mistakes, but I just kind of kept it in play all day. Definitely made some putts that were big. Overall, it was pretty solid.

Q. If the leaderboard sticks right now, it will be your first time having a 54-hole lead going into the final round. How does that feel and what -- mentally how are you feeling going into Round 4?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: It feels weird, obviously, because I've never held a 54-hole lead, so it will be interesting. I don't know. I guess I'll just go home and have a beer and go to sleep and figure it out tomorrow. Yeah, it will be fun.

Q. So I know you went to the PGA TOUR for a couple years... kind of walk me through that and how it felt coming back to KFT.

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: The PGA TOUR's different and, unfortunately, I just didn't play my best, but it was a good learning experience. I got beat up out there, and it was probably good for me to figure out how to get better and figure out what I needed to do to be a better me.

Hopefully it will be a blessing in disguise. Obviously, no one wants to lose their PGA TOUR card, but it is what it is and I'm here now.

Q. Yeah, your caddie said you had to take some time off and reflect and kind of just reevaluate. So what did that process look like for you personally?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: I had some issues with the putter for basically my whole career, but specifically the last couple years, so I took a lot of time to break down that and put in a lot of work in the offseason doing that. I really just hadn't been home all that much either, so

it was really refreshing to spend some time with my wife and my dogs and just kind of enjoy life.

Q. Is this something that you try to factor in now, like I've got to make sure I'm home this much, see my wife, get refreshed before I go back out?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: Yeah, she's going to start traveling with me more, which is nice, and we're excited about that. I mean, I'm not real old. I'm almost 30. But I'm getting to the point where I just need to be home more than I used to. It's very refreshing for me, so that's something that I've kind of learned along the way.

Q. (Indiscernible) your first and only Korn Ferry Tour win that you have under your belt. Walk me through how that felt and then how it feels to be in the hunt for number two.

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: Yeah, that was really fun. I had never -- I hadn't ever really had that great of a chance to win up until that point and I was fortunate to get it done. It was on Mother's Day, which was really cool, in the state that I grew up in, so that was really, really cool for me and my family.

Hopefully I can kind of reflect on some of those times and some of those pressures that I felt a couple years ago, and take them into tomorrow and, hopefully, do the same thing.

Q. Talk about the course a little bit, how it fits your game.

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: There's a lot of tee shots that you have to hit a fade, which is good for me, I hit a fade. I've been successful on the greens here in years past. I played pretty well here last year when I was here. I don't know what it is about the course, but I feel comfortable.

Q. Is there anything from like how you felt down the stretch in contention in Kansas City that you learned that could be applied tomorrow?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: Absolutely. I think I took some things that I learned there and I use them all the time. I think I use them whether it's a pressure-packed shot when I'm on the cut line, or just a big time in my round on a Thursday. I try to build on all of those things. Obviously winning golf tournaments is hard and, if it was easy, then people would always win. I try to stay as myself as possible and go from there.

Q. So staying as yourself as possible, how do you describe like what that is?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: I'm pretty laid back. When I'm smiling and having a good time out there, I usually am my best self, my best version of myself. When I take it too seriously, I'm not. It's really that simple. And my caddie knows that. I made a terrible bogey on 14 today and he was just trying to make me laugh, and that's kind of how we try to reset sometimes.

He knows that I need that, so we just try to do things like that.

Q. He mentioned to me yesterday about the attitude of the carefree, whether it's Monday, whether it's Saturday afternoon. Obviously it's working this week, but was it a conscious effort to change your mentality of just not -- not not caring, but just not caring too much?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: It's something that I've learned through the years, for sure, that when I try to hard, I'm just not my best self, whether that's putting too much pressure on myself or wanting whatever too much.

I've tried really hard for a long time and I'm just kind of ready to relax and have a good time and let whatever happened, happened. That's kind of how I try to look at each day, whether it's a Monday or Sunday.

Q. Do you know you're one of only a few people to birdie 17?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: Really?

Q. Yeah. Does that not shock you?

MICHAEL GELLERMAN: It's a hard pin, it's a hard green. It's not crazy shocking, but it was a good birdie.