



First-Round Transcripts | Live and Work in Maine Open Thursday, June 23, 2022

PATRICK COVER (-7, Leader)

City Plays From: Cornelius, North Carolina | Turned Pro: 2018 | College: North Carolina-Wilmington
Exempt Status: Qualifying Tournament Finishers 11-40 and Ties (thru 2022)

On his 7-under 64 in the first round

It feels really good to put a full round together. It's my best round of the year and to have it on the first day was really nice. I'm pretty happy about it, pretty pleased.

On his season and what turned around this week

It's been a couple things. I got a new putter a couple of weeks ago and that's seemed to totally revamp my putting which is really nice. I would consider myself a good putter but I really struggled in the beginning of the year. So I got a new Odyssey putter and it's been really, really good. I've been trying to work on my mentality and attitude a lot too. It's easy to get down out here. I had a lot of rough tournaments in a row and it's easy to get down on yourself, but I just felt confident this week. I did a lot of good things last week despite a missed cut. I made a lot of birdies, so I felt good about my game. I just felt confident today. I had a good warmup and I had a couple good days of practice, not only out here, but playing some other courses around town with my caddie. He's from here, so I've had really good prep for this tournament for sure.

On his caddie being from the area

He knows the course pretty well. It's not his home course, but he's played a handful of tournaments out here and he grew up in Portland, so he knows it really well and helps out a little bit with the reads and definitely some lines. There are some weird slopes out here where you can play it off of a slope, over to the right and it'll end up left of the pin. So a couple things like that, he's been a big help.

On his mentality heading into the second round

I mean, it's cliché, but keep doing the same thing. I played really well today. Definitely my best round of the year, so I'm just going to try to keep going, keep doing the same thing. There wasn't anything that stood out today as something that I was struggling with, so I'm just going to go practice a little bit and keep things the same. I've got some time to hang out before tomorrow. I always like going morning-afternoon better than afternoon-morning, so I have a lot of time to chill out and just hang out, maybe go check out downtown Portland again.

On his final three holes (Nos. 16-18)

I went birdie-eagle-birdie to finish, which was a bonus. And I had a good finish, maybe two weeks ago, or so. I've been putting some good finishes together and obviously to go 4-under on the last three was a really nice bonus. I hit it close on 16, still had to make a good putt. Then I hit a really good shot on 17, just to the fringe. I probably had a 10-footer from the fringe. Then I made a nice putt, I didn't think it was going in on the last hole, but I hit it really soft and it caught a lot of break at the end and got in the side door.

On any advice that he's received this season

Back to the mentality stuff that I was talking about. I got a couple good tips about the mental game, or whatever you want to call it, and it's helped a lot. I've been thinking about that a lot and like I said, it's



easy to get down on yourself when you're not playing well but you're not as far away as you think you are. It's been right there, it's just been a couple rough tournaments. When you don't play well on the front nine or the first 15 holes, the weeks can get pretty short, so it's really nice to start off the tournament strong.

JOHN VANDERLAAN (-6, T2)

City Plays From: Southbury, Connecticut | Turned Pro: 2018 | College: Florida Southern College
Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings (thru 2022)

On his first-round 6-under 65

I played good today, didn't know this was the best round of the year so that's always nice. I did everything pretty well today. I could drive it a little better, maybe, but I took advantage when I had opportunities and putted really nice. Made two eagles which is always a bonus. Definitely a good start of the week.

On if his putting is what stood out most Thursday

Probably. I hit a couple close early on. I just was hitting my lines really well. Had a couple nice two-putts so my speed was good. It kind of kept me in it through the whole round. A couple good saves and nice birdies.

On his week in Maine

It's awesome. I played here last year. I grew up in Connecticut so it's Northeast golf. I kind of know a little bit about that, I'd like to think. It's been nice, especially coming from Wichita last week where it's super hot every day, these 65-degree days - I've been able to enjoy them. The course is playing good so I expect there to be some low ones this afternoon, but I'm happy where we're at.

On his mindset down the stretch of the season

Mindset hasn't really changed. I'm still trying to win every time I tee it up but I played a lot of good golf this year and I feel like I haven't gotten that much out of it. I've been in the top-10 a bunch of times, just haven't closed it out on Sundays. Just trying to put four good ones together and chase that card until the end of the season.

On growing up in Connecticut and playing 'Northeast golf'

In the middle of the summer, we usually play where it's super hot and you're sweating a bunch. This week, it's a nice light jacket and the course is in good shape. These greens are bent with some poa, which I grew up playing on, so I'm comfortable putting on them. It's a good week. Downtown Portland is awesome. There are some good restaurant options down there at night and just a fun week all around.

On his expectations this week

Just keep playing good golf. Take it one hole at a time, one shot at a time. I know that's cliché, but like I said, I've done a lot of good this season. Just put four solid rounds together and we'll be in good shape and see where we end up on Sunday.

On his two eagles

Always a bonus. One of them, I hit in there about five feet, so I expect to make that one. Then I probably hit a 50-footer on 17, so that was definitely a bonus. It's always nice to see them drop.