

Third-Round Transcripts | Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation | Saturday May 7, 2022

Zecheng Dou (-13, T2)

City Plays From: Beijing, China | Turned Pro: 2014 | Pronunciation: zuh-CHUNG DOE

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

On his week and how his game feels...

"Just playing consistent. I think the most improvement from last week is putting. These greens are nice, rolling really well, and I got my caddie back and had him read a lot of putts. Been working pretty good on the greens."

On what he fixed about his putting and what he's working on...

"Just stroke and tempo. I had a little movement in my head in the stroke, but this week I stabilized it a little more and I'm rolling putts in. My caddie and I both saw it. I used to hit a little down, which creates a little backspin. Now I try to top it a little more and create more topspin."

On the course and whether anything else is working in particular...

"This is a really competitive tour course. It's not a small public course. This is really like a tournament. Long par 4s, long par 5s, it's windy, a little rain and cold right now. Everything has to be good to play good out here. I think that's the way my game is right now. I'm just consistent. A little mistake here and there, but nothing big."

On being close to a win multiple times this year and what the difference could be for him tomorrow...

"I've been thinking a lot (about) what to finish to get my card, what I have to shoot to be (PGA) TOUR Bound every time I get into a position like this, and it really messes up my game in the end. I saw Carl's (Yuan) interview and he's not even thinking about just TOUR Bound; he's thinking about Player of the Year and how many wins (he can get) out here. If I play bad, that's my game. It's not something mentally going wrong. But I don't want to be like, 'I finished third, and I'm really close to getting my card.' I just want to give it all I got tomorrow and see where I finish."

On being highly-ranked in The 25 despite not having a win...

"I think I can do a lot better. I've been shooting a lot of 64s, 65s, 66s this year. If my mental was a little better, I could have a lot better finishes. Just making cuts, finishing around 20th, 30th every week, it's just the thing in my head (where) I have to feel comfortable heading into the last couple rounds."

On whether Carl Yuan locking up his PGA TOUR card fuels him...

"I started out the season losing in a playoff. It was still 300 points. I feel like I can get my card at some point. Carl locked it up, and I feel like there's somebody from the same country going to play with him next year. There is a team bond over there. It feels competitive. It motivates me to get mine. It's really nice for him to lock it up."

On what he will do tonight to prepare for tomorrow...

"Before, I've been thinking about it like tomorrow is the last day, thinking this way that this thing will make me play better. Even small stuff like sleeping on a side of the bed. I'm not going to do that tonight. Just play my video game, wake up late tomorrow, warm up and just play."



On having a group of friends out here how it helps on the course...

"My girlfriend being here, it makes me feel, especially in this stretch, there is something more to do other than going to express food, going back to the hotel and sleeping. Every day you wake up under pressure, like you're here to work. That thought goes away a little bit when there are more people around you, friends you can talk to, and have it be your normal life as opposed to being here and having to do something."

On summing up his career to this point in time...

"If I get my (PGA TOUR) card, or if I win on TOUR this year or next year, I'm already late. A lot of (players) similar age to me like Collin (Morikawa), Scottie (Scheffler) have been dominating on the big TOUR. Being out on the Korn Ferry (Tour) early in my age, thinking that way, it does come (with) a little pressure. Guys are behind you and they speed up and go past you. It's motivating, but also pressure."

On being able to contend...

"I feel like I can really play right now. My game is feeling great. I've been hitting it longer every year even without any fitness training. Did a lot of hard work at an early age, and it's coming out right now. I think I'm moving in the right direction."