



Second-Round Transcripts | Veritex Bank Championship | Thursday, April 14, 2022

Shawn Stefani (-14 / 1st)

City Plays From: Mont Belvieu, Texas | Turned Pro: 2005 | College: Lamar University
Exempt Status: Former Fully Exempt PGA TOUR Member (thru 2022)

On his round today...

"Just patient golf. I've been doing a lot of work on my golf swing this year and I've seen a lot of improvement and a lot of things that are starting to go my way. I tried to change my mindset this week, to just try and be a little more patient, and I did and it's helped. It's been nice."

On staying patient...

"We're all competitors and we all want to do our best. Little things happen and you might lose your patience but it's like the old cliché, *one shot at a time*. You just have to stay in the moment and be as patient as you can. We got a lot of golf left, too. Being patient is key and it's been helping so far, so that's really nice."

On swing changes...

"I have been working on getting a few things tidied up. My transition was getting off, getting quick from the top and my old swing coach, Fred Marty, his health hasn't been as good, so I started working with Jonathan Dismuke, the University of Houston coach, and he works with MJ Daffue as well. MJ has played great this year and Dis (Dismuke) has helped me. It's been nice to have the help, because I have seen the changes coming to fruition."

On playing in his home state of Texas...

"I love the state of Texas. I'm from here, I played the Valero [Texas Open] a few weeks ago. I Monday'd in. I love that spot. My wife's birthday was that week, my family came. We had a great time, we always do there, and the weather was good. It's always nice to be in the state of Texas."

On patience losing PGA TOUR status and trying to earn it back...

"I can't say mentally, that I've been my best, but the last couple of weeks I've really tried to focus more on the mental side of things. I feel like I was doing some good stuff, but getting in my own way... playing well, then making some mistakes. Mentally, not being committed or trusting my golf swing. I've tried to change the mindset to just come out here and play golf, try not to be perfect. You're going to make mistakes and just accept it. It's funny, but when you have that mindset of acceptance, great things usually happen, and great things have happened the last couple of days."

On finishing 5-under in his last four holes...

"I was really struggling with my swing towards the middle of the round and I just kept fighting and staying patient. I made one good swing on the par 3 (No. 15) and said 'Oh, okay, there it is,' then stuck with that swing thought, then just let it go after that. I chipped one in on No. 16 for eagle, hit two great shots on No. 17 and three great shots on No. 18, so it's nice when what you're trying to do happens."



Chase Parker (-13 / 2nd)

City Plays From: Augusta, Georgia | Turned Pro: 2014 | College: University of Kentucky
Exempt Status: Additional Qualifying Tournament Finishers (thru 2022)

On his round today...

"I played well all day. My front nine (the back nine), I hit it great all day but the putts weren't quite going in, and then I got a little confidence on the back nine, made a couple putts early and just kept it rolling from there."

On his season so far...

"It's been up and down. I haven't gotten into all the tournaments like I would like to, but I've played solid in the ones that I have, so I should be good for the rest of the year. I hope."

On if he's frustrated not having a full schedule...

"It's tough but you just have to stay ready."

On the challenge of capitalizing on the opportunities...

"I feel like I've been on all levels of the spectrum. I've had full status out here, I've had conditional, not gotten in anything and then this year it's 50-50 the first couple of events. It's given me some freedom. I know I have to go play well to continue playing out here."

On his 7-under 28 on the front nine...

"I don't think I've ever shot a 28. I didn't realize I shot a 28 until I signed the scorecard. It shocked me a little bit. I think that was the first time."

On his mindset after getting in and not getting complacent..

"You lose track of where you are and of how many birdies you make, just trying to birdie every hole."



Byeong Hun An (-12, 3rd)

City Plays From: South Korea | Turned Pro: 2011 | College: University of California-Berkeley
Exempt Status: Tournament Winner (thru 2022)

On his bogey-free round...

"It was weird because yesterday I hit it a lot better... my drives, the shots into the green. I don't think I missed many shots yesterday in the tough conditions, but I just couldn't get anything to roll in. I missed some nice birdie putts, I had a three three-putts, which was very disappointing. Today was a lot better. Everything was rolling in and the greens are in better shape in the mornings. I played pretty good today. I hit it okay, missed some shots out there, but going to do some work on the range. The game feels pretty good and there are some wide holes out there so I can miss a few. I rolled in more putts than I did yesterday and the long putts are a lot better."

On hoping his game comes together tomorrow...

"That would be great. Hopefully I don't miss a shot tomorrow."

On the course fitting his game...

"It makes it a little bit easier for everyone. It's better than the tight fairways and small greens. I mean, there are some tight holes. Some holes look tight off the tee and some look wide. You just have to make it in the fairway."

On his eagle on No. 16...

"Yesterday I tried to lay it up but had a horrible shot into the left tree, so today I hit driver down there. I pulled my drive a little bit but I got lucky. My drive stayed in the fairway and I had about 45 yards in. It went in with a little bit of speed and got to the flag stick. I didn't see it go in the hole, but the other two guys (Robb Oppenheim and Ben Griffin) did. It was a nice eagle."



Tyson Alexander – Defending Champion (-11 / T4)

City Plays From: Gainesville, Florida | Turned Pro: 2010 | College: University of Florida
Exempt Status: Tournament Winner (thru 2022)

On being the defending champion and playing well this week...

"I'm hitting it really well this week. It's felt pretty easy. I've had a lot of looks and I'm just keeping it light. I've missed a couple putts, but I'm not going to complain on where I'm at. I'm excited to be where I am."

On playing well at this venue...

"It's the course, I guess it fits my eye. I played great last year and I have good vibes this year and I feel like I know where to miss and how to work my way around here."

On how his game feels..

"My iron play has been really good. I've just given myself a lot of chances. Today was 5-under and it was pretty easy. Just getting the ball in the fairways and my iron game has been good."

On his reception at the Veritex Bank Championship...

"I think this tournament would have been that way to anybody. I think they do a good job of treating us well. Player dining is great, and to be the defending champ is just the cherry on top. It's been a hectic week with a lot of fun stuff going on, but I'm excited to play well."

On whether he thinks his career is on the timeline he foresaw...

"Schedules are tough, I don't think there's a perfect schedule for everybody. My younger self probably thought that I'd be a little ahead, but the older I get, the more I realize this game is tough. There's a lot of good players out there and it's very competitive. I'm just trying to get better each year and wherever that stacks up, it stacks up. I'm not trying to be on a schedule, I'm just trying to do me."

On how he focuses on his own game opposed to where he is at...

"You see it now, the game is getting younger and younger. You see Scottie Scheffler, I don't know how old he is but he's really young. I remember when Jordan Spieth came out, he was really young and had a lot of success so you wonder, 'Why not me?' But it's a marathon not a sprint, and you just have to run your own race. I think if you pay attention to those outliers too much, then it's not good for yourself. You just have to run your own race and do your own thing."

On the expectations of coming back to a place where he won and how he handles it...

"I think I was just going to let the score happen. Just because I won last year doesn't mean that I'm going to play well this week. You still have to hit good shots and make putts. I think it helps that I have good memories from last year and I know certain shots that I've hit here in the past, I know certain winds, what they do here, but expectations is another tricky thing. I think you just have to be present and be right where your feet are."



On his first set of clubs...

"My dad gave me a set of Ping i2s for my first real set of clubs, but he only gave me the evens. I was at the age where all my friends had full sets of clubs and I felt like it was time for me to have a full set of clubs. I was complaining to my dad about having just the even clubs and I wanted the odds and so he said, 'Sure. I'll give you the odds.' So he gave me the odds and took away the evens. That was just his way of giving it to me. It taught me some creativity to hit some different shots."

On how old he was when he got the clubs...

"Maybe 10? I think. It was a long time ago."

On when he finally got to have all 14 clubs...

"It didn't take too long. I think he was just doing it to just prove a point. Maybe a few months or something like that."

MJ Daffue (-11 / T4)

City Plays From: Pretoria, South Africa | Turned Pro: 2012 | College: Lamar University

Exempt Status (Season): Additional Qualifying Tournament Finishers (thru 2022)

Exempt Status (Event): Top 25 on Korn Ferry Tour Points List at Time of Reorder

On his second round...

"I started off pretty much like I did yesterday and played well, hit the ball well and didn't make many putts. Then I got the momentum going with some good shots and didn't hit a good tee shot on No. 4 and got in my own mind. I went down there, where the ball went into the hazard... the penalty area to take a drop and because I wasn't really focusing, I took the wrong drop and had to get a two-shot penalty. That was the first time I've ever gotten a two-shot penalty, so it's pretty disappointing to play good golf and give two shots away by not doing anything. I fought back. A little disappointing, but it's always hard finishing a really good round and following it up with another really good round. I'm alright. I'm happy."

On how the course played today versus yesterday...

"The wind is east today, so a few of the holes were playing more down(wind) and a few of the holes into the wind. It played a little different. The flags were a touch easier, but it's firming up so you can't land balls short of the greens or off the greens because it just goes over so you have to be precise. When you are short-sided it's tough to get it up and down because you can't bump it."

On his putting drill with his son's ball...

"I should. I didn't putt bad today. It was more me being in my own way and reading something, then standing over it and thinking something different... not trusting what my eyes were seeing. I saw my playing partner hit a putt and it did something different, so more commitment issues but it's an easy fix."

On shaking off the penalty and moving forward...

"I try to do good at letting it go. I birdied the next hole, so obviously I was able to get back in it. I had some birdie chances coming in but didn't birdie No. 9 with an 8-iron in my hand, so it's a little disappointing. I'll probably still think about it for a few hours. I'll eat lunch and get over it somehow. It'll be easy when I go back home."

On his eagle at No. 18 after a wayward tee shot...

"I knew that if it was a decent bounce, hitting such a terrible tee shot way to the right, I knew it would be okay and it didn't go all the way down into the water, luckily, so I was able to somehow guess a distance. We actually took a distance in the practice round. We shot the last tree that there is on the right, so I knew how much it was to that so I just counted another 20 (yards) and hit a 9-iron, left it in a good spot and the putt went in. It shows you sometimes you just take what they give you and move on, because you never know what the score is going to be."

On his calculations on No. 18...

"I had 165 (yards) to the tree and we had just looked at the book, the tree is about 20 steps short of the front edge, so 185 (yards) and the flag was another 29 (yards) on. I just tried to hit a 185 club and where it was in the hazard was fluffy, it was straight down wind and it ended up in a really good spot. It could have gone more right and gone down the swale."

On how long his eagle putt was...

"It was over the green. I had about five steps of fairway to go through and about five steps off green, which made it easy because I just needed to get it on the green."

On how he got recruited to Lamar University from South Africa...

"There were a lot of foreigners and South Africans before me, so I wanted to play there and I played with a guy who played there, his name is Oliver Backer, he played on (Korn Ferry Tour) for a while. He gave the coach a call and it was easy. Lamar is a good golf program and it's hard to attract good American players there, so it's easy to recruit internationally. It worked out fine for me. I had a good college career. I'm very fortunate."

On his first thoughts on Texas...

"It was a culture shock, not Texas but America in general. I didn't know anybody in America I just got on a plane and flew over here. I didn't know a single person so I had a lot to adjust to but I think it's the best place in the world. Living is easy. As far as Texas goes, I like it. It's slow, laid back, I like the country living and music. My wife is country too so I got used to it, I love it."

On what being a father did for his perspective...

"The cliché thing is that you have more than just golf that you think about, but I would say in a sense that's true, but for me it was actually a rough adjustment. For the first 10 months of (Oliver's) life, when I was home I was feeling guilty not being able to help much; he slept fine and didn't want me to put him to sleep, so it was a lot of work on (his wife) Kamie. It was an adjustment psychologically to just adapt to being a father. The perspective just made me realize how I need to carry myself and what kind of an example I want to set because he's at an age now where he takes in everything. I think when I'm on the road I miss him a lot so when I'm home, I'm spending my time better. When I'm practicing, I'm practicing, but when I'm with them I make sure I don't lose any moments playing on my phone or anything like that."