

Chubb Classic presented by SERVPRO

Friday, February 18, 2022

Naples, Florida, USA

TiburÃ³n Golf Club

Robert Karlsson

Quick Quotes

Q. Robert, 66 first round here at the Chubb Classic. Just start with your thoughts on the day.

ROBERT KARLSSON: Obviously missed the last couple events at the end of last season, so I'm just very, very happy to be able to play, coming back to playing and playing pain-free.

So whatever was in the scorecard today I was going to be okay with. Only played three rounds of 18 holes since Phoenix, so it was a bit like that today. There was some really, really good stuff and there was some awful stuff. So have a bit of work to do.

Q. You played well here last year, finished T2. What is it about this course that seems to suit you?

ROBERT KARLSSON: I don't know. I mean, last year I probably hit the ball better. It's a nice course. I like it. Usually doing fairly well, a lot of short irons, wedges good today as well.

I just like the place. It's good fun. Course is fun.

Q. What kept you out last year?

ROBERT KARLSSON: Back problems. It was called a Schmorl's node. It was just a little bit of fluid came out of the disc, so one of the vertebrae or -- yeah, one of the vertebrae became soft. The symptom is like a stress fracture, but it's not a fracture. It's painful as hell.

But that's what I had to deal with.

Q. So time heals?

ROBERT KARLSSON: Yeah, yeah. Talked to three different doctors. They all say the same things: Six weeks without golf balls and then you can start slowly, so that's what I did.



Q. So like in Austin you said you only played three rounds.

ROBERT KARLSSON: Yeah, started hitting balls after Christmas. I've hit drivers for about three weeks. Played 18 holes twice before I got here. No, actually once. (Indiscernible) first time I played 18 holes, so obviously with that, that's (indiscernible). I'm looking at the season as a very kind of long, long season. Hopefully I can get things going. Whatever comes early on there is going to be a great bonus.

Q. What was the highlight of that three-birdie stretch on the back nine?

ROBERT KARLSSON: The highlight of the back nine was the par I made after the birdie stretch.

Q. In the trees?

ROBERT KARLSSON: Yeah, I hit it way right. When I was hitting that shot I was like, This could be a 6 quite easily or a 7, because I had no way out. I tried to hit it low underneath but I had to miss the cart path and it bounced in the sandy bank, get over the -- through the palm trees and stop it before the water. So it wasn't very pretty.

I had a free drop down there but I couldn't drop because it was just jammed between all the trees. I couldn't get anywhere. So just to get out to get a chance to get it on the green for 3, but it was still in the trees. I hit a great shot under the branches, over the water, and stopped it on the green and holed it from 25 foot.

I've played golf for 30 years but I don't think I've made five pars better than that one.

Q. What was your club?

ROBERT KARLSSON: The third shot was an 8-iron from 155 yards in the trees. So over water, under branches, so it was like if I would've clipped one of those branches you would not be talking to me now. It's one of those things.

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