

The American Express

Thursday, January 16, 2025

La Quinta, California, USA

PGA WEST Pete Dye Stadium Course

Blades Brown

Quick Quotes

Q. You played rounds on the PGA TOUR before. What was it like this morning getting ready, nerves?

BLADES BROWN: Man, I was so happy to be back out here. It definitely took me a second to get my rhythm down, but as soon as I did, I felt really comfortable, and I'm glad that I got my first round as a professional in the books.

Q. I was walking with your dad today, he was saying how proud he was of you. What's it mean to have him and your mom out here?

BLADES BROWN: Oh, it's so special. I was looking down the fairway a couple of times, and to be able to see my dad walking down with me with a smile -- he probably wasn't too overjoyed of the shot I hit on 17, but he was the first one to yell "fore" back there, but it's so special having my family out here.

Q. Can you talk about the up-and-downs you had back-to-back on 9 and 10?

BLADES BROWN: Oh, man, those just aren't like that hard of holes, and I made 'em a little bit more difficult than they needed to be. Yeah, pulled it left on 9. I knew that I could give myself a chance for par if I hit it in the left bunker. Then when I got up there it was still a pretty dicey shot. Then I hit it to about four feet, knocked it in.

Then the one on 10 was, I mean I looked at my caddie and I was like, That was nice. That was really nice. Making that 15-, 12-footer for par, definitely momentum chasers right there, and I'm really happy that I was able to convert.

Q. After your tough start on the first three holes did you do anything sort of mentally to reset?

BLADES BROWN: Yeah, it was challenging the first couple of holes, just because my adrenaline was up and whenever that happens I hit the ball super far, so our distances weren't going exactly what we thought they were going to go. Then a poor shot on hole 3 left me in the hazard, unfortunately. I was able to battle back with three



birdies in a row and I was super pumped about that.

Q. Is that something you sort of take pride in being able to shake off bad holes?

BLADES BROWN: Yeah, I think I do that really well. I play a lot of basketball, so it's just, next play. I think that's one of my strengths is to, whenever a bad hole does happen, because they're going to happen, we, unfortunately, that's just going to happen in golf, I think one of my strengths is just letting it go.

Q. You mentioned your nerves beforehand, but tell me about what specifically stepping on that first tee what was going through your mind?

BLADES BROWN: Actually, I was okay on the first tee, just because I've hit, I call it a bullet 3-wood, it's a little low 3-wood. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to hit it as well as I would have liked to today, but felt really confident on the first tee. I kind of see it as excitement, not nerves, just because I'm able to get a few more mile an hour ball speed off of my adrenaline.

Q. I heard you tell someone, now that the first round is over you can exhale a little bit, is that how you're feeling?

BLADES BROWN: Yeah, so as an amateur, playing the Myrtle Beach Classic my first round, I remember I shot 1-over par and my agent Tommy he said, Hey, bud, that's your first round on the PGA TOUR, you're going to have plenty more of those, just leave it behind you and you're going to be good. And we ended up making the cut. So I'm super pumped to be able to have my first round as a professional in the books and super excited for what's to come.

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