

# THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson

Thursday, May 1, 2025

McKinney, Texas, USA

TPC Craig Ranch

## Rico Hoey

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Rico, 8-under of 63. Nice way to start. What was super special about that round today?**

RICO HOEY: I drove the ball great. I've had some pretty good days where I drove it, but today was one of the best ones I've seen. Having ball in hand helped a lot, so took advantage of it.

**Q. Did you feel it coming? This season been kind of up and down for you a little bit. Did you feel like it was getting closer?**

RICO HOEY: You know, I think for me, yeah, it's been up and down, but from the start of the last season and comparing it I think I'm doing a way better job.

Just feel like there are rounds I've been clicking; other rounds I haven't put it up. Kind of nice to get the momentum rolling now. This is the season to really kick it into gear.

**Q. Much nicer day today than yesterday. How do you spend your day yesterday?**

RICO HOEY: Just relaxing, getting some physio done from my trainer, and just going out to the putting studio my putting coach found, hit a few putts, and kind of just chilled.

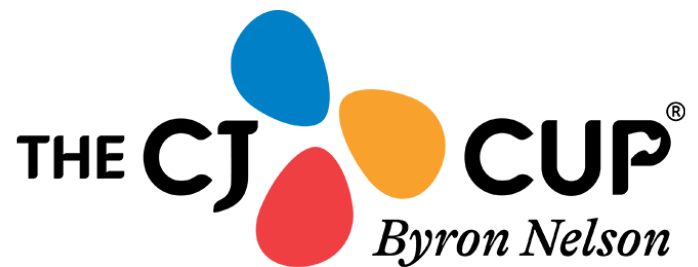
**Q. You opened your round with a bunch of pars. Did you feel like lightning was about to strike, eagle, par, birdie, birdie, birdie, birdie, birdie?**

RICO HOEY: Yeah, the eagle was great. I knew it's a long track and being first off it's just hard to get your mind and body going. I did that, and felt like I was playing well.

Just it happens. Golf is one of those you got to stay patient at times, and I did a great job of that. I rattled off five straight birdies and that was awesome.

**Q. How did the course play in terms of the rye grass?**

RICO HOEY: I think it played great. I like this kind of stuff.



I thought the greens were awesome. I felt like they almost picked up speed as the day went. It was really cool. They did a great job, the staff out here.

**Q. Did you get a chance to play it before the rain hit?**

RICO HOEY: Yeah, so on Tuesday we kind of mapped out, played 18 just in case. I felt like Wednesday, I was in the Wednesday pro-am, but seeing the weather coming I figured might as well play 18. I knew Wednesday was going to be a wash.

**Q. Did it play differently with so much rain or not?**

RICO HOEY: I feel like the course got better with the rain surprisingly; at least for me. I can only speak good about it. I think the staff did a great job. Greens were rolling nicely, smooth; fairways were pretty similar.

So not bad at all.

**Q. You won professionally but not on the PGA TOUR. What kind of breakthrough would that be for your career?**

RICO HOEY: I mean, it would be great, but it's just the first round. Hopefully I can answer that question on Sunday.

**Q. You said your putting coach is here. Anything in particular you're working on on the greens?**

RICO HOEY: I think basically even like with my other swing coach, Ross Fisher, we always worked on setup. At times it gets wonky, so worked on that a lot, and just getting the right base to it.

I feel like I read the greens well enough. Just a matter of matching read and speed and alignment, so trying to match all that up together.

**Q. You mentioned on the radio that you've been kind of grinding, traveling three or four weeks, and yesterday helped to relax a little bit. Really feel like that made a difference, just sitting around while the weather took over?**



RICO HOEY: I guess mentally, yeah. You're trying to convince yourself -- being out here you want to grind and be the best, but sometimes having that day off helps out, too. I am glad we had a day off. I feel like I benefited out of it.

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