

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I had a nice stretch to start the year out, I was playing a lot of really solid golf. Little shots here and there are preventing me from getting really close to winning or winning it all. So it was just a little bit here and there, but I was playing good. I didn't play real well the last week out at the PGA, but I felt good coming here and obviously had a really good day today.

Q. What do you think of this course and the layout on it, the fan interaction on it?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: It's great. This week, unfortunately I've never been able to play here before just because of other things going on at home and stuff. It's been great. It's a fun golf course to play, and the fans, it's fantastic. I mean, there's a lot of people out here, they're very vocal, which is a lot of fun. Makes for a great environment and hope to have more of that this weekend.

Q. With the way the weather is supposed to be this weekend, how important was it for you to put yourself towards the top of that leaderboard and what could be a challenging weekend for scoring?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: It could be. I don't know if it makes it any more important today than any other day. A lot of times if you can shoot a really good score when it's playing tough, you can really start up the leaderboard. So I think for the guys who maybe didn't have a great day, they're kind of happy it's going to be windy this weekend so they can make up ground a little bit easier.

Q. You don't play a lot of courses like this on the PGA TOUR Champions, right, old-style and the subtleties of it?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I like it, it's fun. It reminds me of a course up in the northeast a little bit with the undulations. Hitting fairways is a challenge. If you can drive the ball in the fairway, you can shoot a really good score out here, but that's easier said than done. The fairways are very difficult to hit. Today I hit my share and I took advantage of the opportunities I had, and when I did it, I made good pars. So hopefully a little bit more of that this weekend.

Q. If my memory serves me correct, you finished second in an event in Iowa a few years back, in Iowa City on the old Ben Hogan?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Wow, that was more than a few years ago. Did I finish second back at Iowa City, at Finkbine? Yeah, that was a long time ago.

Q. '91 or 92?

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: I was going to say '91 or '92. You've got a better memory than me.

Q. Well, I was there.

KEVIN SUTHERLAND: Okay. That was a good week for me. I remember week vividly. That was a fun week for me, and unfortunately I wasn't able to win. I remember I think I three-putted the last hole to miss on the playoff. Unfortunately, I did that, I remember that. But it was a lot of fun to be here. And I always enjoyed John Deere, too. Same kind of thing.