

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
July 26, 2025

KURT KITAYAMA (-17)



Q. Good round. How was it today? Did something click in your game? You're coming off some good finishes. How was today and how have you felt this week?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, you know, yesterday's round felt like I didn't have any control. I hit some balls after, talked to my coach, Chris Como, and kind of worked through some things on the range. Felt like I found something that I could go with. And warming up today, felt pretty good and it kind of showed on the course. Yeah, was happy I was able to find that.

Q. You've had some struggles off the tee in the past that you've talked about, especially the year that you won, but this year you're up to 12th in strokes gained off the tee. What do you credit that improvement to?

KURT KITAYAMA: Working with my coach, Chris Como. He's really improved my driving. I feel like I'm hitting it straighter and just more comfortable pulling out driver on holes I would never have hit driver on and I think that's been the key.

Q. How would you describe yourself as a player today compared to two years ago when you won?

KURT KITAYAMA: I think overall probably more complete, more consistent ball-striker. You know, just feel more comfortable over shots, tough shots, feel more comfortable hitting the hard shot. I'd say that's the biggest thing.

Q. Did you have a number in mind at all going out there?

KURT KITAYAMA: No. I was just kind of going out there, and I don't think you really have a number going out into any round, just kind of take what you can get. You know, as it comes down the stretch, then the number kind of pops in your mind.

Q. So you weren't thinking 60 when you woke up?

KURT KITAYAMA: No, definitely not.

Q. So speaking of 60, that was your career low round, you beat that round at the Zurich Classic by one. What made this round so special today and what does that leave for your confidence going into tomorrow?

KURT KITAYAMA: Well, it's not only my on Tour career best, like my personal best. Yeah, it means a lot, especially to have my brother on the bag. It's a really cool experience having



that opportunity coming down the stretch. And yeah, it's good to have that momentum going into the final round.

Q. Kurt, you played it safe on 18 instead of risking it going for the eagle. Was -- talk us through that decision and was it directly impacted from 17?

KURT KITAYAMA: Not really from 17, it was just -- it was just like a foot in the rough and the lie was -- I needed to be a foot in the first cut and I would have gone for it. It was just very questionable, 220 out, I didn't really know if it would jump out of there or maybe just dive. Had a good round going so that would have really stunk if it goes in the water there.

Q. (No microphone.) Going into that shot, did you expect it to land where it did and what club did you use for that?

KURT KITAYAMA: On 3?

Q. Yeah.

KURT KITAYAMA: I was just trying to hit it left. I had an angle left side and I hit a 6-iron there. Just kind of came out perfect, ended up where it was.

Q. Were you thinking 59 at all when it was in sight?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, definitely. 16 was moved up, knew I'd get a birdie there with a good drive, and then 18's a par 5 so it was definitely on my mind.

Q. You mentioned your brother on the bag. How long has he caddied for you and what led to that decision?

KURT KITAYAMA: This is his second week this year. He's caddied on and off for kind of my whole career, just kind of fills in when I need him.

Q. Does it help your mindset when you have someone so close to you?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, we've had a lot of good finishes together. He knows my game. I think he's just getting more comfortable, too, being out here. It's nice to have him out here.

Q. Is he younger?

Q. When you won at Bay Hill, it's an Arnold Palmer-designed golf course. What is it about Arnold Palmer-designed golf courses that suit your game?

KURT KITAYAMA: Honestly, I'm not sure. I couldn't tell you. Yeah, couldn't tell you, sorry.

Q. Is your brother younger, older, and his name?



KURT KITAYAMA: He's older. His name is Daniel.

Q. Kurt, you birdied seven of the nine, first nine. What was working for you?

KURT KITAYAMA: I gave myself a lot of good looks and the putts were just dropping. I felt really in control of my irons and yeah, you just get some putts to drop, which was nice.

Q. Anything in particular that you found these last couple weeks that has you playing pretty well?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, I feel like since Detroit my game's kind of been feeling pretty good, and just trying to ride that in.

