ROUND 1 INTERVIEW October 28, 2021

RUSSELL KNOX (+1)



Q. Have you ever played in conditions like that?

RUSSELL KNOX: That windy? No. 9, we were on the front edge of the green there and I've never experienced wind that strong, I think, on a golf course. I mean, we were down on the ground holding an umbrella. My fingers were like cramping I'm holding on so tight and it was pouring rain as hard as it's ever rained. It was an interesting day. It rained like three or four times and when it did, it was unplayable when it was raining because the winds picked up. It was definitely an interesting day, one which I'll never forget.

Q. Where were you when they stopped play?

RUSSELL KNOX: Eighteen tee, but that was nothing compared to what it was on No. 9. I mean, we stopped on 9 because like you couldn't physically walk. It wasn't a question of they needed to blow the horn, there was no like physical way that you could play. That's what made it kind of obviously a bizarre day.

Q. In between all the heavy gusts and rain and stuff, what were the toughest parts? The crosswinds, into the wind, gusts of wind, what were the toughest parts for you today?

RUSSELL KNOX: Every shot was extremely difficult. I mean, when you did get like a downwind tee shot, you were like, oh, yes. I mean, I think I hit a 7-iron from 120, I hit -- I mean hitting 4-irons from 150 at times. Chipping, I barely hit a full shot all day.

I enjoy that, though, because it just activates like your creativeness, kind of forces you to hit shots. Sometimes I get too stuck in just hitting the same boring shots, so I love it when it's windy. Maybe not quite this windy.

Q. How long did you, I guess, shelter in place on No. 9 for lack of a better term?

RUSSELL KNOX: I guess it was a good five minutes. I mean, because we were so high there on 9, we could look down and see other people obviously doing the same thing. We were like, well, we're just going to wait until we can stand up. It was a good five minutes. That's as hard as it's rained plus wind that I've ever seen on a golf course.

Q. What was the most creative shot you hit?

RUSSELL KNOX: On 12 today, par 4 up the hill, I hit a nice drive. I was in an old divot and I had 111 front, I think it was on 9, 120, and I chipped a little 7-iron and it went probably 111.

So that felt like I was stealing having a decent birdie look after being in that position.

To be honest, every shot's hard. Even though like you're with a pitching wedge or a 5-iron, it's so easy just to hit a horrific shot if you just get it wrong, a little too much spin, the ball's off. It was a day to kind of survive and I'm glad I kind of hung in there.

Q. You seem to be more of the (inaudible) mindset more so than the technician. Would you take more pleasure from hitting that 7-iron from 111 or whatever it was or just a perfectly even lie, pure --

RUSSELL KNOX: Oh, 100 percent. Everyone out here is incredible golfers and they've all played in the wind, but not everyone enjoys playing in it as much as probably I do. Like I said, when the wind's that strong, it kind of activates something in my brain which I think makes me a better player. I guess my goal is to kind of try and do that even when it's not as windy, which is smart but hard to do.

Q. How did you end up with Willie Wilcox on the bag this week?

RUSSELL KNOX: Will and I obviously go back a long way, back to mini-tour, Hooters Tour days. I've known him a long time and I knew that he just kind of quit playing, and I was going through a little bit of a lull with my man, Bradley, so I thought let's change it up this week and have Willie on the bag.

It was fun. We talked out there. It was a pretty hard caddie debut for him out there. He was maybe a little lazy, didn't walk the course, so he was like, "Where's this hole going?" Fortunately I've played here before. Obviously he couldn't club me all day so it was kind of fun being like, oh, yeah, 7-iron, 120.

Q. Did he maybe keep you relaxed out there in these conditions, kind of talk about some other stuff?

RUSSELL KNOX: Absolutely. It was a fun group. I'm friends with Austin Cook and Ryan Armour, so it was a nice day to experience the wildness with those guys. Yeah, honestly, it was a day that anyone out there will never forget.