
Q. Harry, how would you characterize the round out there today?

HARRY HIGGS: Really good. Shooting 7 under, didn't make a bogey. Well, one, I'm probably a little rusty, I haven't done one of these in a while. I've been struggling with my golf game, been struggling with missing it left. I hit one golf shot today left of my target. So as I can still poke holes in like some of the strikes not being great, I didn't hit any shots left of the target except for one and that makes me really happy. And then I hit a lot of wedges really close. It was kind of one of those easy days, had a lot of really nice numbers as well with kind of brain off, you don't have to try to take too much off or hit it too hard.

Yeah, it's very nice to get off to a good start after what has felt like struggling since like April of this year. Fun to get in the mix. It's very early on, but fun to at least like look at your name close to the top of the leaderboard again for the first time in a long time.

Q. What do you think caused the left misses for you?

HARRY HIGGS: Well, I mean, I don't think we could -- I don't think we have enough time to figure that out. The thing that we've clued in on is just rotate, rotate more, rotate more. We've tried to tackle this in many different ways and I have a few like cheat codes, if you will, that I just now start to trust as well, which is huge, right? A few open the clubface on the way back when you can't hit it left.

Just did a really good job of like getting the ball where it's supposed to go. Might not have looked pretty the whole time. I'm going to have some lunch and probably go hit a few balls because I didn't love everything about it, but it never went left of my target, so I loved that fact. I got a couple nice breaks here and there, and then the good numbers into greens make it pretty simple. They're a little soft and we didn't play in any wind. I was kind of looking forward to playing in some wind because you don't really think a ton about swing, swing, swing, you're kind of playing more shots, highs and lows and hold it into the wind, ride the wind. This is nice to get off to a good start when it's calm and hopefully it starts blowing and then I can turn my brain off and stop thinking about swing so much.

Q. When you left Augusta last year tied for 14th, you had to be feeling pretty good about yourself.

HARRY HIGGS: Sure, yeah.

Q. Was there any indication that you had that it would not continue to go in that direction?

HARRY HIGGS: Not in my mind. Yeah, I legitimately have not played good golf since the Masters in April, and Lord knows why. Well, actually, one of the definites is I was way too hard on myself. Still wasn't playing my best, but just had a poor enough attitude that, you know, with making the cut by a shot or two and then having a chance to get better over the weekend to kind of break out of the slump, I just didn't have a good enough attitude to -- it would cost me a shot or two and I'd miss out by one or two. and then the last couple months I wasn't really even close. So today was nice to see successful golf shots, kind of not be shocked when I look up like, oh, wow the ball's nowhere near where I was thinking.

No, none of us think that. You're riding real high, especially after playing great in a major. None of us ever think that that's going to stop. But kind of also throughout my career I've had a little bit of a difficult time dealing with successes. Like if you go back and see kind of some of my best results, usually follow with some poor ones and then I shake myself out of it a lot sooner than I have done up until this point.

So just ever learning, ever trying to figure out how to deal with success. Also figure out how to deal with failure. I've been home on a lot of weekends since April and that's just not any fun, it really isn't. You complain, you're tired, we're on the road a lot. Well, I really wasn't on the road a whole lot, I was there for four or five days and then back home, regroup.

I certainly worked my tail off to try to get out of it and I'm looking forward to testing it, testing it a little bit more the next three days at the top of a leaderboard. It's a little, I don't want to say easier, but when you're around scrapping to make the cut, you can kind of keep the bad habits going. Yeah, just in a weird way you don't really -- you don't really get to test those little cheat codes that I've now at least come up with and started to trust. I'm looking forward to see if I can continue to do that throughout the weekend.

Q. Why do you feel like you've had struggles dealing with success, successes?

HARRY HIGGS: I have had -- I guess you just kind of relax in a way. Not relax in it like I don't put the same amount of work in, it's just kind of relax and assume that I played great last week, I'm going to play great again this week. And I do all the same things, but in a way I do them a bit more unfocused, a bit more in like the going through the motions phase. I mean, we all get caught doing that obviously. It's obviously a very long year, we play a lot of golf tournaments. You literally do the same thing. You wake up and do the same thing every day pretty much. The only days that are different are Thursday to Sunday because you actually go out on the golf course and play golf with a scorecard in your back pocket, but everything else is so similar.

Also, just inherently I'm trying to focus a bit more as I'm just going through the motions, right? I'll go have some lunch and I'll go to the driving range and try to accomplish something with some focus. Then I will go home and probably take a nap and Lord knows what else after that.



But yeah, in a long-winded way to say it, you get going through the motions and you kind of feel like OK. I've had some great weeks in some really big tournaments as well, so you start to think, well, shoot, compare the PGA finish from a couple years ago and then I show up to Colonial the week after, it's like well, of course I'm going to play good. Then you don't.

And then also, because I think that way, I'm not as accepting of a result or two that may not be in my favor. So you get going down the bad attitude part, too. Going through the motions and bad attitude is not a good mix. I feel like I did a pretty good job today of not going through the motions, looking up and focusing on where I'm trying to hit a golf ball.

And then I got a little angry for just a brief second, but after that it was pretty easy, but it was also pretty easy because I was doing good.

I got to do a good job of not allowing myself to anger and get kind of down on myself when I make a bogey. I would like to not make a bogey for the rest of the week, but the chances are that I will make at least one bogey.

So again, I'll probably listen to this at playback to give myself the little game plan for the next three days. Yeah, it's the ever back and forth, back and forth, no going through the motions, no doing anything without as much focus as you possibly can.

Q. You sound pretty excited being here right now.

HARRY HIGGS: Oh, yeah.

Q. How have you -- despite a couple of missed cuts to start the season, how have you tempered that excitement with the work that you've been doing, coming here knowing that you've been runner-up here in your previous starts. So how have you managed that and have you been aware of that?

HARRY HIGGS: Yes and no. When I was runner-up here in '19, I kind of remember it being a little similar. Like I was a little unsure of my skill level and my ability, you know, to hit the golf shots that I needed to, right?

And then it started kind of like this. I think I shot 5 or 6 under the first day, 5 or 6 under the next and then it's like OK, game on, right?

So obviously to get off to this start right now with starting the day with some version of uncertainty in like how is this going to go, because the "how is this going to go" for the past six months has been pretty poorly.

Part of that was my fault in having a poor attitude, but to kind of shake that off, right, and like OK, and I got more certain throughout the day, right? I basically kept aiming further and further left knowing that it's not going to go left, it's not going to go left, and that's a big thing for me. If I know that thing ain't going left, I do feel like I can beat anybody in the world. It's



one thing to say it, it's another thing to do it.

I would be remiss if I didn't -- my girlfriend's 30th birthday is today, too, so we just spent two and a half minutes trying to dive deep and it's probably because it's her 30th birthday and I'm missing it is why I shot 7 under and I didn't make a bogey today. We'll give her all the praise.

No, I'm happy that even starting the day with some uncertainty, I built closer to more certainty and then yeah, just kind of get out of -- the cliches always work, just kind of get out of your own way and keep hitting good golf shots.

Q. What's your girlfriend's name?

HARRY HIGGS: Kailee Kuehn.

Q. Happy birthday.

HARRY HIGGS: Happy birthday, Kailee. Sorry I'm not there.

