
Q. How would you characterize that round out there today?

BEN GRIFFIN: Well, the conditions were blustery. My round was, honestly, I feel like I kept it in play a lot and gave myself a lot of good looks, so I felt like I played a relatively clean round. In these conditions I feel like some guys could get themselves on difficult sides of the golf course and I did a really good job of kind of keeping it in the right spot.

The only kind of fluke on my scorecard was No. 13, the par 3, but it was playing really hard. I thought I left it in a really good spot, but I had just kind of a nasty lie and wasn't able to get up and down. But it was a pretty clean round and I was pretty content with how I fought out there. Now I'm in contention going into tomorrow.

Q. What did you feel like you did best in these tough conditions today?

BEN GRIFFIN: Just flighted my ball really well. I was on the range with my caddie and I was like, I don't even feel like warming up right now, because I felt I was hitting it that well and in that much control. When you get on the range, especially with a lot of wind, you can get yourself caught in some swing stuff, so I tried not to hit many balls before I went out there, just tried to get loose, just was very confident in my ball-striking. The putter stayed pretty hot, but it was tough putting in the wind, it's a completely different ballgame. Yeah, just kept it low and kept it in play and gave myself a lot of looks and was able to get out of there with a good round.

Q. Is the last round at Wyndham going to help tomorrow?

BEN GRIFFIN: Absolutely. Yeah, having that experience on the PGA TOUR, playing in a championship, not necessarily having a chance to win but fighting to try to get -- finish as high up as I could, that experience is going to help me a ton.

I've played pretty well on the weekends, I'd say, the majority of the time when I've finished well in the tournaments. I finished really well and I feel like this is kind of a similar week where I'm feeling good about my golf game and just got to kind of get loose and get back at it tomorrow. There's not really any part of my game that I feel I need to mess with at all, I've just got to go out there and execute. It's going to be a ton of fun playing against an Irish lad who's going to hit a lot of stingers and knows how to play this type of golf, so it's going to be really fun and I'm very excited for the opportunity.

Q. People who might not know all the story, how many people have come up to you in the past year and said, what were you thinking about, why did you ever quit?

BEN GRIFFIN: Well, it's tough financially. You know, during COVID I didn't have status on the Korn Ferry Tour or the PGA TOUR and it's very difficult unless you have sponsors or a support system that can kind of help you get back.

I credit all of my success this last year and really the month or two to my sponsors, Lord Abbett. The CEO Doug Sieg, he was crucial in my comeback. Without him I wouldn't be playing golf right now. All of these really cool people have stepped in my life. Mike Swann, Jesse Ahearn, guys out in Springfield, Missouri, those guys all supported me and paid for my Q-School last year to get through Korn Ferry.

I felt like I always had the game. I grew up competing against the Scottie Schefflers, Collin Morikawa. I kind of touched base on that a little bit with the media this past year. I'm just comfortable. It was really, it was a combination of burnout a little bit from COVID and then also financially, I didn't want to rely on my parents anymore for everything. They've done so much for me. And now that I'm in this position now being on the PGA TOUR and comfortable financially, it just means the world to be able to have my family come out here and support me. They've done so much for me.

And it's been surreal really the last year and two months of just being comfortable on the golf course and just going out and trying to win. When you're playing mini tour events and you're trying to grind for top-10 just to break even, just have enough money to maybe do a Monday qualifier, it's not necessarily the easiest in terms of your mindset.

Now that I have this little bit of freedom, I can go out there and just try to win golf tournaments. You see the best players in the world kind of have that mindset and it's because they're not thinking about anything except trying to win. When I came back to golf, all my sponsors and everyone has allowed me to think about winning. I haven't won in the last year, I've had a lot of second place finishes and been in contention a lot. I feel like my time's coming pretty soon and hopefully I can get it done tomorrow.

Q. When you're sitting at your desk job, could you have imagined all this kind of happening?

BEN GRIFFIN: It's hard to imagine, that's for sure. I mean, it was crazy. I didn't even think about like return to golf. It wasn't -- without the financial help, I wouldn't be playing golf. It's so -- looking back on it, I mean, it was such a huge refresher for me from a mental standpoint as I touched base about the burnout a little bit and then relieving some of that financial burden has been just huge. It's nuts definitely to be sitting here talking to you guys, getting ready to win a PGA TOUR event tomorrow. I'm just super blessed to play golf. I've got that attitude where I've got nothing to lose and I'm going to go out there firing.

Q. What do you have to do most importantly tomorrow?

BEN GRIFFIN: Honestly, just keep doing the same things. I feel really good with my putting



stroke, ball-striking's been really good. Been working with my coach James Oh. We worked on a lot of good stuff really the last couple years.

You know, I was working with him before I quit and then after I quit we kind of went back to the same work we were doing. Everything's just kind of coming into place. Feel really comfortable with my swing. It's just about kind of attacking where I need to tomorrow. You know, who knows what the conditions are going to be like, but just got to be mentally ready for whatever kind of comes. Again, very comfortable with where I'm at and it's going to be a lot of fun tomorrow.

Q. Does that help, too, being comfortable with where you're at not just financially but maybe with yourself and your golf game?

BEN GRIFFIN: Absolutely, comfortable with everything. I feel like my mind's so clear and all I'm focused on is just try to hit as good of shots as I can and playing without fear, just knowing that everything's going to be OK if I don't pull off a shot.

A lot of that stuff can kind of hurt you when you're out there and for me I'm just focused on the shot at hand. Me and my caddie are really good getting our numbers right with the wind and kind of talking through everything, where we're trying to land it. Because it's definitely kind of a numbers game that the PGA TOUR's turning that way because guys are so good, you've got to be so precise with your numbers. I feel like everything that I've done in the last year has kind of propelled me to where I am right now and I'm super excited to again go out there and attack.

