



Q. Was there a point in the last few weeks where you started to feel it was turning around for you?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, you always feel that way, we're golfers, we always think we're good. You know, I got off -- swing got off because -- I believe because of just new equipment, change in diet, so lost the weight, lost give or take 18 pounds, 15, 18 pounds, changes the setup a little bit. Just little tweaks here and there and that's why I wanted to play. I don't need to play, I don't have to play. I can go home and spend time with my kids and not worry about the FedExCup. But I wanted to play, I love golf and so that's why. We're six in a row counting next week. I felt like it was coming around so I wanted to keep playing and get more reps in. Reps on the range, anybody can hit it in a big field, so I wanted to play and improve that way.

Q. What is the difference when it comes to the 125 when you know it doesn't cost your job? Are you sitting there trying, obviously trying to make those Playoffs still?

BUBBA WATSON: Oh, yeah, for sure. I still want to challenge myself, I still want to -- all you've got to do is, what, top-5 in one of the Playoff events and you make it to the finals, which is sad but true. That's what we're looking for. Just one good week, get the confidence. Last week I started out good and missed some putts, played good at the British and then started out good this week. Ball-striking's coming around. So this week, next week, and a week off, then the Playoffs. So I'm looking forward to one good week, one top-5 and you jump way up on the board and get to play mini-playoff events.

Q. Do you watch those predictions at all?

BUBBA WATSON: I see them when I'm on the course. It says Bubba's at 117, and we get a text at the end of every week. But no, I don't check them because like I said, I'm good for a few years.

Q. What's been the time frame on the weight loss?

BUBBA WATSON: It was last -- I changed my diet a little bit last -- I got home from China and then changed the diet. Took out -- you still have cheat days, you're allowed a couple cheat days here and there, so I still eat some sugar every once in a while, but most of the time it's not. Haven't had really a cheeseburger, gosh, since last November. I've had probably we'll say three cheeseburgers, if that. A lot of chicken, a lot of salmon, a lot of broccoli, green beans, stuff like that. Just cleaner foods.

Q. Does that help at all with energy level?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, I've got two kids I'm trying to -- and then last week, rumor was first group last week at 7:10 was at five hours and five minutes, so I need to get in shape real fast being out there for that long. That's boring. So yeah, energy level is better, focus is better, all that stuff.

Q. Was that the motivation?

BUBBA WATSON: Motivation is just being healthy, watching the kids. Champions Tour is right around the corner, so I've got to get ready for that. Bernhard, he's still going to be playing. He's going to be like 92 and winning, so I got to get good so I can beat him.

Q. Were you worried about losing the power when you lost 18 pounds?

BUBBA WATSON: No, that wasn't a fear. Ping makes good equipment so I'll catch back up.

Q. What about the candy?

BUBBA WATSON: Again, I've been on the road, this is my fifth week and then I was at Greenbrier for a few weeks. I just stay away from the candy shop. That's the key, don't go back to Pensacola and you don't have to worry about the candy.

Q. What's the cheat that you do have?

BUBBA WATSON: It might be a couple cookies, it might be ice cream with the kids, something just basic like that.

Q. Good start here at Firestone. Bubba, how would you characterize how day No. 1 went for you here on Thursday?

BUBBA WATSON: It was great. Anytime you shoot under par, shoot in the 60s around this golf course. This golf course, the rough is up this year so it's playing tough when you get off the fairways and around the greens. I had a couple great up-and-downs to keep the round going. So no, I'm happy with it.

Q. Finished second here a couple years ago. What does that do in terms of confidence coming back to a place that you've had some success?

BUBBA WATSON: You can have some good feelings, some good trust knowing some of the numbers. You've played here, like you said, eight years, so I know wind directions, I can remember back what clubs I've had. It gives you a lot of confidence knowing that you had a chance to win here so hopefully again on Sunday we'll have a shot at it.

Q. As we're nearing the end of this season, how do you hope to jump start this final stretch of golf?

BUBBA WATSON: The key for me is just -- it will be six in a row after next week, so that's what I wanted to do is just get some reps under my belt, keep getting better each week and the ball striking's coming around, the putter's coming around and as we know, Playoffs, all you've got to do is get hot for a couple weeks and you're good in the Playoffs. So the whole year really don't matter when it comes to the FedExCup Playoffs, so looking forward to it and hopefully move up the board somehow.