

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
September 21, 2017



KYLE STANLEY (-6)

Q. A special day for you, you've had a lot of them this year and I was there with you at Quicken Loans, that final Sunday was pretty good, but where does this round rank because this golf course is tough and you played almost perfect?

KYLE STANLEY: Thank you. Yeah, I hadn't seen the golf course at all this week so I didn't really know what to expect. When we played our practice rounds I thought it was really difficult or a pretty difficult test. Today it was nice to get off to a pretty fast start making four birdies in a row and was able to make a few on the back nine. So just tried to not complicate things, keep the ball in front of me and maybe make a few putts.

Q. The birdies at 3, 4 and 5. No. 6 you almost expect, the par 5, because it's reachable, but 3, 4, and 5 with those hole locations, those were good birdies.

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah. Let me think, 3 was just a perfect number so we could get pretty aggressive with that. No. 4 is a difficult hole so a birdie there was kind of a bonus. And then 5, went with driver today and hit a pretty good one down there close to where I only had just a really good sand wedge number so was able to kind of go at that right pin.

Q. I thought you drove the ball -- you only missed three fairways and two of them were in the first cut so you drove the ball really good.

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, you know, I don't have too good of a game plan I guess for this golf course seeing it for the first time but I felt like maybe that would be key, just hitting a lot of fairways and giving myself chances on second shots.

Q. Lastly, I think I've talked to you about this several times, but you still use those Nike irons. They no longer make clubs but I guess you like them and you use them still pretty good, don't you?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, you know, that was kind of by design going into this season. We felt that it would be best if I just continued to play with a lot of the stuff that -- I was already five years in with them, I was already pretty comfortable with it. So yeah, felt like maybe continuing to play stuff that I knew would kind of, you know, less variables overall.

Q. Kyle Stanley shot a 6-under 64 in your first time here at the TOUR Championship. Did you expect that?

KYLE STANLEY: No, not really, but seeing the course for the first time this week I knew it was going to be a pretty difficult test. It was kind of a bonus making four birdies kind of right

out of the gate. You know, continued to hit it pretty well throughout the day.

Q. Is there something about this course that fits your game or were you just in the zone, everything clicking?

KYLE STANLEY: No, not really. Just hit a lot of fairways. I missed three fairways, I think, and two of them were in the first cut. So just gave myself chances at second shots. Then made a few long putts, which was nice, too.

Q. Talk about your year that you've had this year. You've got a win and you played pretty well here in the Playoffs, two top-25s to start off the Playoff run. How are you feeling now coming into the TOUR Championship?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, I feel pretty good. My ball striking's been pretty solid all year long so it's really been nice to not have to mess with that a ton. My putting gets hot and cold from time to time but I guess we've kept it somewhat warm this year, which is good. Yeah, overall things are in a good spot.

Q. (No microphone.)

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, it feels good. Obviously a lot of golf left but it's a nice reward for a good season to be here. It was one of my goals at the beginning of the year, so yeah, overall really glad to be here, just trying to enjoy the week.

Q. 22nd in the standings coming into this week. Were you aware of the permutations of what you have to do to maybe get the big W here?

KYLE STANLEY: I mean, yeah, I think the Tour did a write-up kind of on what each guy had to do, but a lot of variables there. You know, just control what I can control, I guess, and we'll see, but it would take a lot of luck on my part.

Q. You came close qualifying for the tournament twice before. Is there some sort of freedom that comes with actually getting here, the perks that kind of go with that? Once you make it here you can kind of loosen up a little bit?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, a little bit. I think in 2012 I finished 31st, but still, going into the BMW I still had to have a decent week. Yeah, like I said, been a goal to be here. Once we accomplished that, it's not like all the stress goes away or anything. You still want to come here and play really well. I guess it kind of frees you up a little bit being a small field and you can come in here and play pretty aggressively.

Q. What was the best shot you hit today?

KYLE STANLEY: I don't know. Overall I hit my irons pretty well. There's not really one that sticks out too much. Seemed to have quite a few chances, hit a lot of greens so overall hit

quite a few.

Q. Last year you were playing Wyndham (inaudible) and now you're here. What's the biggest difference than last year?

KYLE STANLEY: Well, I mean, I've obviously played better this year.

Q. What have you done better?

KYLE STANLEY: Well, I mean, everything. Statistically, I don't think there's been a ton of weaknesses. My ball striking's been really good. So that being the case, if my short game falls into place, I'm going to play well. You know, overall just been trying to do the best I can to prepare, and my ball striking being as consistent as it's been has definitely made things a little bit easier.

Q. We know you like the color blue. How superstitious are you?

KYLE STANLEY: I mean, normal amounts. I'm not -- I think he actually threw that in my bio, so yeah, not too superstitious.

Q. So blue's not your favorite color?

KYLE STANLEY: No, it is, but like I wore a blue shirt today because I wasn't like oh, I need to wear blue.

Q. What have you made of the atmosphere this week with so few guys, it's kind of quiet in the practice areas, and this pot of gold you're playing for, what's the atmosphere like?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, it's nice, not a ton of people, which I don't mind. The later tee times are nice, too. It still kind of has a mayor type aura to it and a really good golf course, too. Overall I thought the vibe has been good. Then a lot of crowd support, too, so overall it's had a nice vibe to it for sure.

Q. Do you know what you were doing this week last year?

KYLE STANLEY: Sitting at home probably.

Q. Do you watch this when you're not in it at all?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, I mean, if I'm at home and I'm not playing, I'll just -- as a fan of golf I'll sometimes watch. Yeah, overall not watching too much golf at home.

Q. Kyle, sort of the heart of college football territory here. Are you following your school pretty heavily?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, it's been fun. I mean, I wish they were that good when I was in school. We were like barely getting into bowl games then. It's been fun watching them the past few years. Living in Washington it's a long way to go to catch a game but I try to watch as many as I can on TV.

Q. You've had a couple of Tour wins which is great, you've experienced the ups and downs in this sport. Just how tough is this sport, the sport of golf in your experiences?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, I mean, it emotionally can be a bit of a roller coaster at times. Golf's unique in a sense to where if you're struggling, it may take quite a while to kind of get back into form. When things are going well, you can kind of put a year or two, several years, a few weeks together, and the opposite of that. So overall just try not to get too high or too low and yeah, but I mean, it's sports, it's golf.