

PATTON KIZZIRE (-19)

DOUG MILNE: Patton, congratulations on your victory here at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba. Obviously a lot of things come with the win. You move to No. 1 in the FedExCup standings, two-year exemption to the Tour, there's all kinds of things. Something you've been looking forward to for a long time, so with that, talk about the win here this week.

PATTON KIZZIRE: The win this week is pretty special. I've been working really hard to break through, and for it to happen here at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba is huge for me. This golf course is really demanding and it was nice to win here and to win against -- it came down to Rickie Fowler and I and it was just a great battle. The hospitality here, the golf course, everything was just really special. I'm super excited to get it done and looking forward to coming back here.

DOUG MILNE: With that, we'll take a few questions.

Q. Patton, that was quite a start you had to the morning. You knew you were going to probably -- you were going to play 36 holes and you were out there on the first hole and it's cold and there's nobody out there and you're taking a drop by the cart path. Can you take us through that? That was a heck of a bogey.

PATTON KIZZIRE: Yeah, I was hoping everybody forgot about that. Yeah, that was a wild start. To have a 12-footer for bogey on my first hole trying to win a golf tournament, you know, that's a challenging start. To make that putt and kind of calm down and find my stride and start making birdies and get out front, you know, that felt really good. I've been playing great and I've had a lot of confidence right now. I was able to make some really critical putts and I was -- that was a little chink in the armor, but I think it settled me in a little bit.

Q. And a crucial par save on that same hole to begin your fourth round, I think?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Oh, yeah. I mean, we could go on and on. I had a lot of critical saves or birdie putts or, you know, that's what you need to win golf tournaments.

I've been thinking about this moment for a long time. I haven't thought about it since the last putt went in, but I've been thinking about the exemptions and the Masters and Maui and all that stuff that goes along with winning for a long time. I'm really excited and it brings a big smile to my face to think about all those things.

To be No. 1 on the FedExCup list, that's huge. The FedExCup is a big deal to me. I haven't been able to make it to the TOUR Championship in my first two years and that's left a bad

taste in my mouth. So I'm really excited to get a leg up and be No. 1 right now and be able to really try to push for that TOUR Championship.

Q. Congratulations. After your last putt on 18, you looked at your caddie. (No microphone.)

PATTON KIZZIRE: Yeah, yeah. I was hoping nobody noticed that I was just looking around. No, I was looking for my caddie. I looked for him and then I thought maybe he's behind me, but I was ready to give my caddie a high-five and a hug. He's worked really hard. He battled sickness all week and he's been a big part of my success. We're good friends and I was looking for him to celebrate.

I didn't really know what to do. It wasn't like I holed a long putt to win and could give a big fist pump or anything, it was only about that far, but I was super excited. I'm excited for everybody that's put a lot of effort into my career. I'm going to really enjoy this one and try to move on and look for the next one.

There's a lot of great champions here at the OHL Classic and it's kind of been a springboard to a lot of guys' careers and they've gone on to win other tournaments. So this is a great tournament and I'm excited to be the 2017 champion.

Q. When you were playing the Hooters Tour, (inaudible) how far away did a PGA TOUR victory seem?

PATTON KIZZIRE: That's a great question. We've played a lot of golf together, a lot of golf against each other and we've been battling for years. It seemed really close, but yet so far away. There's so many steps to get to this point and you really have to kind of overcome a lot of obstacles to get here. I'm kind of a never-give-up guy. I've really tried to stay the course and believe in myself. It seemed a long way at the point when I was on the Hooters Tour, but now it's just part of the whole process.

Q. Joe was saying that you guys made the cut on the number at Sanderson Farms, is that right, and then had a really good weekend? He said there was kind of a lesson in that, just free it up and play, let it go. Was that sort of your interpretation of how that all went?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Yeah, that's what we've been trying to do for a long time. If you ask some of my friends and other PGA TOUR -- fellow PGA TOUR players that I play golf with at home, that's kind of all I need to do. Joe's helped me do that. It's really difficult to allow yourself to play like you can. There's so many guys out here that don't play like they can, you know, every week. They kind of hold themselves back, and we're all trying to overcome that and play like week.

Joe's been a big part of helping me kind of get through that. We've built on the Sanderson Farms and then into the Shriners Hospital in Las Vegas and then here in Mexico. To kind of

go from 10th to fourth to first here at the OHL Classic has been huge.

Q. The last time you played here you had an amazing first round. Not as good as this year's but then the outcome is better. What changed or what did you learn from that time in order for this time to be different?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Well, I remember you asking me a similar question on Thursday and I appreciate the difficult questions because what did change? I had a good start my first -- good Thursday my first year and it was -- you were basically asking me what's going to be different. It got me thinking a little bit.

I have a lot more experience. Experience is huge. You can't replace it. I've been in contention several times and been able to have good tournaments. I've built on all of those good finishes and was able to overcome a lot of adversity and overcome a charging Rickie Fowler and get it done and it feels really good.

Q. Do you think you leave Mexico as a different player?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Same player, different resume. It gives me a lot of confidence to beat such a great field here, and to finally get my first win, it gives me such great vibes. I'm excited to take that confidence into my future tournaments and the rest of my career. I just want to thank Mexico and the OHL Classic, Mayakoba and El Camaleon. I'm super excited to get a victory here and looking forward to the rest of what comes.

Q. (No microphone) after you play the U.S. Open, what does it mean for yourself and your wife after all (inaudible) to play the Masters, you also going to play (inaudible) and have a longer season, right?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Right. My wife has been a big part of my success. It seems like about the time that our relationship started I started playing better golf, so that's -- I owe a lot to her. Yeah, with this win, I'm playing in Maui and then I'm playing at Augusta and then I'm playing -- I don't even know what I'm playing in.

I don't even know what this means, really, but I'm excited and I think that I'll sit down when I get home and kind of figure out what all this means and make plans moving forward. I know a lot of good things are happening, so that's all I know.

Q. Have you gotten a text yet from Jason Dufner, and how will you celebrate this because the Tour is now going to your home, right?

PATTON KIZZIRE: It is. I haven't checked my phone yet. If Duf hasn't texted me, it's probably because he's not even worried about golf. He's probably not following.

No, I texted him the other day and we plan on playing in the Zurich Classic together again. I had to wait until I had a few good finishes before I asked him if we were partners again.

He's been great to me and I'm looking forward to getting back to Sea Island tomorrow and kind of just realizing what's happened. This has been a surreal experience.

DOUG MILNE: Well, Patton, congratulations.

PATTON KIZZIRE: Thank you.