

HARRIS ENGLISH
MATT KUCHAR

DOUG MILNE: We would like to welcome the two-time champions of the event, defending champions Matt Kuchar and Harris English. Guys, thanks for joining us for a few minutes. Twelve starts between y'all here in the event, obviously you've got a formula that works. Just some thoughts on being back here and defending the title this week. Matt, you're closest to me so we'll start with you and then a couple comments from Harris.

MATT KUCHAR: It's such a fun week coming to Naples, coming to Tiburon. It's something I think we all look forward to. This format is fun. Having a partner to bail you out, to cheer on is great fun. Certainly Harris and I have made a really good team and look forward to trying to defend the title again this year.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, we don't get to play team golf a whole lot. I know Kuch has been in the Ryder Cups, Presidents Cups, but if you're just a regular player on the PGA TOUR you don't get to play team golf a lot. It's something I look forward to and something that you get used to playing college golf, but out here it's such an individual sport. But it's awesome to have a good buddy you're playing along with and somebody you can cheer on and help and have a lot of fun with.

Q. Matt, how would you categorize your season, 2017?

MATT KUCHAR: There's a lot of good. Certainly I would have liked to have found a winner's circle somewhere along the line. It's been a couple years for me, which has been a bit frustrating, but I had my best year ever in major championships. I had a couple close runs, one very close run at the British Open. As a whole it was a good year.

It seems like we judge ourselves a lot by victories out here. To not have won in a couple years is frustrating, but I'm pleased with a lot of what I've done with my game. I think we're judged so much on wins, but as a golfer you look back at a season and you try to improve and kind of the bottom line is always trying to get better. I feel like I've improved as a player. I feel like I'm a better player. So I'm certainly pleased with that as a main goal of mine. Main objective each year is to continually improve and I feel like I've done that. Winning, you kind of never know when you'll get hot, when things will kind of really click and go your way. Sometimes they go your way and you get beaten. But as a whole I look back at 2017 and am quite pleased with '17 as a whole.

Q. Would you describe the British Open where you look back as you just got beat?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, exactly, that's one of those situations. Yeah, it's an event I came

awfully close in winning. I thought it was going to be my time and my turn to win a tournament. Got beat. I look back at kind of how the last few holes played out and I played awfully good golf. Not much you can do when somebody out-duels you. Jordan's a fantastic player and a great guy. Just he turned it on at the end, it was quite impressive.

Q. And how would you categorize your year?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, definitely not my best year, but as Kuch said, you're always trying to improve and always trying to figure out how you can get better with your game without changing it. I definitely went through some changes and tried to do something that I've done differently in the past couple years and it didn't work out. But trying to get back to what I used to do when I was in college and a young player and just play the game and have fun and try to win as much as possible.

Q. Kuch, do you still have a, what, an afterglow from the Olympics?

MATT KUCHAR: It's amazing how wide reaching the Olympics is. That afterglow tends to be when people are bringing it up, not something I focus a lot on. I carry the medal with me, but it gets kind of pushed down to the bottom of the backpack and forget I have it most of the time, but I have it with me most of the time. However, it's not something I'm constantly carrying on my person, showing off.

But I'm amazed at still to this day how many people talk about it, how many people, you know, throw in that introduction when they meet me, the bronze medalist at an Olympics. So it's certainly a highlight, something that I had always wanted to do and maybe never really grasped the full scope of quite how big the Olympics really are. I've been a huge fan forever, but inside the ropes and having participated, having brought home a medal is bigger than I thought it would be.

Q. So you still carry it around with you?

MATT KUCHAR: It does, it still travels with me. It's not like a golf trophy where it's a challenging packing job.

Q. That's pretty cool.

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, yeah. I mean, I'm amazed at responses when I'm asked to -- if I have it and when people actually see it, freak out.

Q. Do you have it with you today?

MATT KUCHAR: No, literally it's in a sock inside my backpack. The sock is protective. It's already dinged up a good bit. Like going through airports, I learned my lesson, it sets off -- they don't know what it is, they think it's some sort of who knows what. I guess it just reads funny on the x-ray so they always dig through my backpack and find it. Now I always

take it out and just leave it in the sock to go through the x-ray machine. They always examine it and the people always freak out. You won this? Yeah, I won it. What's it for? It's for golf. That's amazing. It's funny the responses, but every time I go through it and it's cool every time.

Q. So you're growing the game?

MATT KUCHAR: Through the TSA, yeah.

Q. I wanted to ask you guys -- obviously winning here, runner-up, runner-up, winning again -- when it comes to this team environment, especially this event, you see players taking around the caddies on the golf cart today, are there any specific moments or holes or maybe conversations with somebody in the gallery stick out at this particular event just given the nature of it?

MATT KUCHAR: They have great volunteers. I know year after year a lot of the same volunteers and you develop a friendship with some of the people that you just see as regulars. Even some of the fans become regulars. It's nice to become a part of the community. I think we're kind of nomads with our job, but we feel like we have a sense of community in all these different places that we go to.

So it was fun the last two days seeing a handful of volunteers that have been here my whole time and probably longer and a lot of the fans that are similar. So there's a great sense of community. No one special story, but it is nice to see the support and the familiarity.

Q. Take us inside the ropes. I know you guys are giving it to each other out there.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, I don't think people realize how competitive this tournament actually is, especially when it comes down to Sunday. I remember dueling it out with Strick and Jerry last year, it was a good duel. I know I was trying to get in the zone and we were as competitive as possible and trying to win. That's what we're trying to do out here. It was fun coming down the stretch. I feel like we were kind of going back and forth, they would be one up, we would be one up, and finally we pulled ahead, but it's a lot more competitive than people think it is.

Q. Harris, what makes your partnership with Kuch so good at this tournament?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I feel like we have very similar personalities, very easygoing, we have a lot to talk about on the course. He cracks some jokes. It's very relaxed. I kind of feed off him, maybe he feeds off me a little bit. It's just a fun friendship, partnership that we both have similar games, very similar personalities and just enjoy playing together.

Q. Are those jokes PG-13 or do they get a little --

HARRIS ENGLISH: They're good, they're good. He likes to have a laugh and likes to get

people going. He's good at sending some little jabs at people.

Q. Is he the prankster that he's renowned to be?

MATT KUCHAR: Not at all, not at all. I enjoy some good humor, sometimes off color, sometimes in color. I don't know how you say the other side of off color, but I can laugh at a kindergarten joke or off-color joke the same. Certainly just enjoy -- I feel like the more fun I have on the golf course, the better I play. I tend to enjoy formats like these. I think a lot of guys fall in the same category, they seem to have fun and tend to play a little better when you're having a good time.

Q. Harris, do you agree with that?

HARRIS ENGLISH: For sure. Kuch is a very funny guy. I just enjoy playing practice rounds with him, hanging out, going to dinner, really anything. We try to have as much fun as possible. It's good to see a guy that I respect and look up to be so relaxed on the course and it kind of helps me with my game, this is how I need to be.

Q. Well, the important thing is by now has he offered from Georgia Tech his full support for Georgia in the playoffs?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I haven't brought that up.

MATT KUCHAR: Georgia put a good whooping on us. What are we, 2-2 the last four years? But they clearly have bragging rights. They are a better team, the Dawgs are awfully strong. I can't promise you that I'm going to cheer for them in the playoffs, but --

HARRIS ENGLISH: You won't?

MATT KUCHAR: Who do they play?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Oklahoma.

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, I'm probably -- I don't have any ties, I'd probably cheer for the Dawgs.

Q. Going back, you mentioned airports. Did you do your big international trip this fall?

MATT KUCHAR: We went to Japan and China. Kids went to Japan. It was for golf tournaments. We leave Monday for South America on a vacation trip, so we're doing Patagonia for a couple weeks. Always wanted to go. Greg Norman was actually one that told us about one of the stops down in South America that we needed to make. He's recommended a couple stops and they're always outstanding. We honeymooned at a place called Lizard Island in Australia due to his recommendation and there's a stop on this trip

with his recommendation as well.

Q. Where is Patagonia?

MATT KUCHAR: Chile, Argentina, down by the South Pole.

Q. Do you still have the full-time teacher with the kids?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, yeah, it's been great.

Q. How's that work out?

MATT KUCHAR: It's been really healthy for me, it's been great for my wife or just our family dynamic. Our job, we're not home very much. If the kids went to school like normal kids, I wouldn't get to see them very often, my wife probably included. So it is great for the family dynamics and I think the kids get an amazing education outside of they do the standard curriculum, the standard schoolbook stuff, but they also become fairly worldly and I think there's such a great education in travel. So it's been fun for me to see them grow up and mature and see different things. Just to be around has been really important.

Q. Kuch, Greg said that he was bringing his tennis racquet to play tennis with you.

MATT KUCHAR: We invited him yesterday for a 4:00 game. He had said Tuesday night at the pool party that he wanted to be included, so I included him and he had something come up. So I'm not sure if he was scared or if he really had something come up. I don't think Greg Norman often gets scared, I think he must have had something come up.

Q. If you could pinpoint is it, what's your favorite thing, if you could pick one, about this tournament?

MATT KUCHAR: The right adjective might be fun, the team component. I think anytime you throw a proper team component in, it just adds a whole level of fun, excitement, something different, unique. Most of the time it's okay if you hit a lousy shot, you've got a partner there backing you up, so the stress levels aren't near as high.

I had success with Gary Woodland in the World Cup a number of years ago, I think in maybe 2010, '10 or '12, I can't remember. Similar type of format, we had a scramble, we had a best ball, we had an alternate shot. They're great fun having a teammate, having somebody to chat with, having just something that we don't do every week and somebody to share in the moment with makes it more fun.

Q. Harris, your thoughts on that as well?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, I think if this tournament was an individual tournament it would be a whole lot different. It's just fun. We do some parties every night, hang out with players,

seeing the wives, kind of everybody hanging out with your amateur partners. We don't get to do that in a normal tournament and it's a whole lot different and I actually enjoy this format and how this tournament works. It's been a lot of fun for me and have enjoyed every second of it.

Q. Is this a nice ease into the new season just to kind of not feel like it's so stressful?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, for sure. You kind of want to try out what you've been working on the last couple weeks. I know Matt played last week at the Hero but for me, hadn't played in a couple weeks and been working on some stuff and it's good to put it in play and kind of get some momentum going into the new year.

MATT KUCHAR: It would be interesting to think about this format, just crossed my mind, if you became much more social during normal PGA TOUR events. If you went to the pro-am parties and you went to the sponsor events and you had a couple drinks every night. It works here, and I don't know because there's no commute, because you fall out of your hotel room and everything's centrally located. It's rare we have an event like this. On the road you go out to dinner, you can't drink, you can't get in your car and drive back to the hotel, know you have a tee time that you're focused for. So there's a whole lot less of the socialization, a whole lot less of the events. This formula I think everybody here enjoys so much, hard to -- hard to replicate once the PGA TOUR season gets going.

Q. You mentioned socialization. How did that go today with your amateurs? You said they kind of gave you a little bit of a run late there?

MATT KUCHAR: I lost some money today. We were teammates but we were opponents as well. I had a little match and they came through. That was a little bit fixed, skewed their way. Obviously in the shamble format they could use my shot so I had a couple nice approach shots on the par 3s that they were able to take advantage, make some birdies. I hurt myself a couple times, but it makes it fun. I think everybody enjoyed their time today.

Q. Remind me, how did your partnership originally come about? I can't remember.

MATT KUCHAR: I was supposed to play with Brandt Snedeker maybe four or five years ago and Brandt pulled out for one of the injuries.

Q. Segway?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, yeah. I was able to pick up Harris and I think we won our first go-round, a couple seconds and a win.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Won by seven the first year, seven or eight.

MATT KUCHAR: That was an awfully good pickup.

Q. Who's on your bag this week?

MATT KUCHAR: I use my brother-in-law, Drew Parker. It's kind of every year here, it's been a tradition.

Q. So that was the last time you used him was at this event last year?

MATT KUCHAR: Yes.

Q. Did that tradition start just because the time of year worked out good for him?

MATT KUCHAR: For everybody. It's fun. I don't get to spend a whole lot of time with him and his family because I'm on the road, and when I'm home I kind of like to just be home. And this event being the social event, the casual event, the fun event, I said, Do you have any interest in bringing the family down and caddying? We've had fun weeks every year and kind of continue to do it.

Q. What's his golf background?

MATT KUCHAR: He's a tennis player. He doesn't have a golf background.

Q. So he was in the 4:00 game yesterday?

MATT KUCHAR: Yes, he's the A player for sure.

Q. What do you feel like -- where's your confidence level at this course and being able to win two times and get a couple seconds? Going into this tournament, how do you feel like you guys can pull out a win?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I think anytime you come back to a place you've won before you have good memories. I feel like we play really well together and kind of feed off each other. I don't know, you've got to take it deep, especially the scramble tomorrow you've got to make a lot of birdies. I feel good. Anytime I'm playing with Kuch I feel good. We'll see. Have some fun, make some putts, get things rolling, get that momentum going.

MATT KUCHAR: I like our chances. I always look forward to having Harris as a teammate. He's got a whole lot more horsepower for me than I do, so I get to take advantage of some of the drives he hits and then golf seems a whole lot easier sometimes from being able to play where he drives it. There's a whole lot of good teams. This year the field looks the strongest it's ever been, so we'll certainly have to make a whole lot of birdies to try to defend.

DOUG MILNE: Well, guys, we wish you the best of luck at doing so and have a great week.