

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 26, 2018



BILLY HURLEY III

JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome Billy Hurley III into the interview room. He is the 2016 Quicken Loans National champion. Billy, I know this tournament means a lot to you, if we can get some comments on being back. I know you won next door, but just comment on being here at this tournament this week.

BILLY HURLEY III: Well, yeah, this is definitely one of my favorite stops of the year. I mean, being whatever, we're maybe 45 minutes from where I grew up in Leesburg, Virginia, and just under an hour from where I live now in Annapolis, Maryland. Having this be my only win on the PGA TOUR to date, it certainly makes it special in that regard as well. But you add up all the other factors of being close to home and being a tournament that really does a lot to honor the military, it's really special.

JOHN BUSH: Talk a little bit about your season up to this point, I know not quite up to your expectations, but coming off of a pretty good week last week, some confidence coming in?

BILLY HURLEY III: Yeah, so it definitely hasn't been good golf for the majority of this season, but do feel like it's heading in the right direction after playing last week and seeing some good shots and good putts go in the hole. So excited to finish out the summer and make a little run at it.

JOHN BUSH: And before questions I would like to mention you're hosting your second annual Billy Hurley III and the Brave charity golf tournament coming up in the D.C. area later in July. Just comment on what that means to you to do that for the Naval service members.

BILLY HURLEY III: It's a fun deal for me and for really my family in what now is the Billy Hurley III Foundation, so it's the primary fundraiser for our foundation now. It also hosts 18 active duty service members to play in the event and that's one of the pieces that we put into place that made it different and made it fun and was the piece last year that I didn't realize how much I would really enjoy and how great of an experience that was going to be for those guys.

Q. How much have you played on the local course here and how does it compare to other courses in the D.C. area?

BILLY HURLEY III: Well, I actually do the bulk of my practice when I'm home here at TPC Potomac, so I've played it, you know, certainly more than anybody else on Tour. Probably not enough to, like, say I have a true home course advantage kind of thing because there's not a whole lot of tricks around here, you just have to hit a whole bunch of really good golf shots to play well at this place.

And how does it compare? I mean, it's one of the hardest courses in the nation, so it's got to be the hardest course in D.C. like from a difficulty standpoint.

Q. Billy, following that up, a lot of the players that have come in here have said that this in some ways resembles a major championship course. Even with the rainfall that's accumulated, how does that still provide a tough test for anybody in this field?

BILLY HURLEY III: Well, the rain, I mean, yes, that makes it softer, which would make the greens more receptive, although it is drying out. If we don't get any more rain, it should be firm by the weekend, but it makes it longer. The fairways aren't running as much since we have longer clubs into those holes and it is a long golf course. I don't know what the exact yardage is, it's got to be over 7,300 yards, a par 70. So that makes it play a lot longer. I mean, I've hit a lot of 3, 4, 5, you know, clubs into greens in practice.

Q. You said you play this course quite a bit. How are you planning on playing the short par-4 14th hole this week and what are you doing in the practice rounds to prepare you for that?

BILLY HURLEY III: So 14 I think for me will depend all on the wind and the pin. There's certain winds where if it's into the wind, then I have a hard time getting it to the green, and if you can't get it to the green, it's not really that advantageous to hit it up there because there's not a lot of space that's not at least to the front edge of the green there. So it really will just depend on the wind and the pin.

Q. Tiger's put a mallet putter into play this week. Just with you personally, when you've encountered changes, whether it's just mentality-wise, club-wise, what goes into it? How long does it take physically and mentally to kind of conform to those changes?

BILLY HURLEY III: Well, Tiger had three putters on the putting green before I walked in here, so I don't know if he's officially chosen one or not, which one included his traditional old Scotty Cameron that he won a bunch of tournaments with.

I talked to Tiger about that putter yesterday actually and sometimes there's an adjustment period and sometimes you just fall in love with something. Actually, for me, I put a new putter into play in 2016 probably three or four weeks before I won. So sometimes just changing it up a little bit, all of a sudden you see balls start going in the hole and it's great. I think that there always is some adjustments you have to make and some lines that you're not used to seeing that you now see or whatever. I think it varies so wildly. If you get the right thing, it can be just magic from first sight.

JOHN BUSH: Anything else? Well, Billy, we appreciate your time. Best of luck this week.

BILLY HURLEY III: All right. Thanks, John.