

BILLY HORSCHEL (-6)

Q. Billy, what a tremendous round of golf today, you played beautifully. 17 greens, 29 putts, 6 under par. I mean, (inaudible) if you didn't have Andrew Landry get in ahead of you at one better.

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, I had a really good round of golf today. My game's been really in good shape. Last week I missed the cut because it was more of a mental thing, sort of got back in my -- got in my way again. So worked with Bhrett McCabe, talked to him a couple nights ago and just sort of cleared the head a little bit, told him what I was having some issues with.

And yeah, game's been in really good shape. I worked really hard a couple weeks ago on the iron play because that's been really bad this year. It's been awful, really, for my standards. So saw the benefits last week. Like I said, I missed the cut, which was unfortunate, but I knew my game was in really good shape coming here.

Q. Well, and a tremendous display of putting. You made, I think, over 150 feet of putts today, which is pretty startling. You've always been a good, aggressive putter, though, and when you hit that many greens, that's got to be exciting to have so many opportunities?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, my putting's been really good this year since I went back to -- we realized I was using the wrong specs of the putter, so cut my PXG putter down to 33 and a half, which I used at the FedExCup in '14. I've been putting it really well. Last week it wasn't -- it was okay. I sort of jammed it in my bag and I sort of bent my putter a little bit. The loft and lie was a touch off, so I had to finagle it to get it to where I wanted. Actually I felt like I got it in a better spot, which allows me to get in a little bit better setup the way I want.

So, yeah, the putting's been really good this year, and obviously when you make a lot of putts and these greens are really -- the speeds of them aren't as fast as last year so you can be aggressive not having to worry about that three-, four-, five-footer coming back.

Q. Listen to these numbers: Twelve fairways, 17 greens, 159 feet in putts. Does that sound like 6 under par to you?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, that equals 6 under par to me. Yeah, it was a really good round of golf, played really beautifully. The only chance I had really to make bogey -- I don't think I had a chance to make bogey except for the three-putt 17, a little missed four-footer. But really beautiful round of golf. It's what I've been seeing in my practice, it's what I've been

expecting in tournaments and I haven't really been doing a good job mentally wrapping my head around what I need to think about and how I need to attack a golf course. So it was nice to finally play a full round of golf, full 18 holes and see the benefits of it.

Q. I forget where we were, but it seems like you had a tale of two putting seasons where you were a little bit off early on, you could see it building, and I think you told me that you changed putters, you looked at some old tape and found you need to go back?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, we've been looking at old setups for about a year and a half now since I went back to left-hand low in '17 and the setup hasn't been the same, hasn't looked the same type deal. Todd has been asking if I've been using the right length putter. I said yes, it's the same, it's spec'd off my FedExCup putter in '14. Found out before the Masters, he asked me again and he's been asking for a while now. I said, I'll go back, go through my storage unit, grab a replica that Ping made for me. I realized when I pulled it out, it was a lot shorter than what I've been using. So we had my PXX putter cut down to 33 and a half and from there it's really been -- you know, it's been smooth sailing since with the putting.

Q. Billy, it looked like a pretty smooth 64. How were you able to kick it into gear in your opening round?

BILLY HORSCHEL: You know, I feel like my game's been really in a good spot. Last week it was unfortunate I missed the cut. Sort of really shouldn't have missed the cut, it was sort of a mental type thing deal that I was dealing with. Talked to my sports psychologist, Bhrett McCabe, Sunday night and just gave me a few things to go back to what we were working on a couple months ago.

And like I said, my iron game has been a little bit off and worked really hard before Travelers, and since then everything's sort of been rounding into shape. I've been driving the ball really well this year and the putting's been really good. Short game's good enough for me to play well, it's just the iron play's been off.

So iron play was good and the mind was right today, so that was nice to put it all together for once.

Q. What was it like to see putts drop in bunches?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, I've been seeing them a lot this year. It's not something I've been struggling with, it's more or less just getting the ball on the green and giving myself enough opportunities. I haven't really hit a lot of good iron shots this year, my iron game's been off, so to be able to hit really good iron shots, know that the ball is going to -- if I make the swing, the ball is going to do this and have that trust and belief in it just allowed me to be aggressive to the pins. Then get me inside 20 feet, I've got a really good opportunity to make every putt I feel like.

