

NATE LASHLEY (-23)

JOHN BUSH: We'd like to welcome Nate Lashley into the interview room. Nate, I'm thinking 63 is your favorite number this week, your second of the week. If we can get some comments on another phenomenal round.

NATE LASHLEY: It was just one of those days where really nothing could go wrong. Like I said, when I hit bad shots, I really wasn't in any trouble in the rough. I had shots at the green and those shots out of the rough came out nicely and landed in good spots and a lot of them rolled up by the pin. It was just one of those days all around. Got some luck, a lot of luck on 17 for that to hit the pin, and then made some putts.

Q. And you'll enter the final round with a six-shot lead. Talk a little bit about what your strategy will be tomorrow.

NATE LASHLEY: Try not to think about the six-shot lead. I'll just try to go out tomorrow and stay aggressive, keep trying to make birdies, take it one shot at a time and see what happens at the end of the day.

Q. Nate, winning a PGA Tour event means so much. It's not only the money, but the exemptions, everything. It would be kind of a culmination of your career to this point. Is that going to be the biggest adjustment, to not think about what it would mean to you?

NATE LASHLEY: Yeah, definitely. That's something you definitely don't want to be thinking about on the golf course. You just try to take it one shot, you know, be focusing on what you're trying to do on that shot and try to block out all the distractions, and like you said, all the exemptions and everything that comes along with winning, because it's a life-changing event. Tomorrow I'm just going to come out and try to play golf and see what happens at the end of the day.

Q. On the 7th when you were on the other fairway, did you talk about your choices? Did you think about a low liner, or did you definitely know you were going to go over top? Talk about how that hole shook out.

NATE LASHLEY: Yeah, I don't remember exactly what my line was low, but I think most of the time we were just thinking yeah, go high over the tree, try to get back in the fairway. I missed it a little bit and then I think I clipped the tree and fell down. Like I said earlier, I still had a shot, and then when I hit that third shot, it landed almost perfectly on top of the hill and rolled down to, I don't know, three or four feet. It was just one of those shots where one out of 10, 20 shots that ends up like that. It's a little bit of luck involved.

Q. Talked to J.T. after his round. He's excited about being in the final pairing. He said you guys were friends a little bit, knew each other, played together before. You're both obviously eying the prize of winning the thing, but will you guys have camaraderie in the fact that you're both new to the final round on a Sunday in a PGA event?

NATE LASHLEY: J.T. Poston?

Q. Yeah.

NATE LASHLEY: Yeah, I'm friends with J.T. Yeah, it will be great to play with him. Played with him before and he's a good guy. He's one of those guys, real steady and calm. It will be probably a really good person to play with trying to win your first PGA tournament with.

Q. Nate, you missed on Monday, you get in on Wednesday. Can you just sum up the emotions of this week up to this point?

NATE LASHLEY: Yeah, I mean, I'm just -- to be honest with you, Tuesday when I found out I was first alternate and then we had a good idea that I was going to get in, that there was going to be one more withdraw, I was just really happy. Really, I just felt like I really needed to be in the tournament because I was playing really well. Being first alternate's no fun, to be out of the tournament by just one spot.

So realistically I'm just real thankful to get in this week and glad I took advantage of it.

Q. Details on Monday as far as how the qualifying went, what did you shoot, how much did you miss by?

NATE LASHLEY: I shot 4 under and I think 6 under was a playoff. As far as details, another one of those rounds I played well but just not well enough. You've got to make a lot of putts on those Mondays and I guess I was saving them for the tournament.

Q. How much were you aware that, who was it, Snedeker shot 7 under early and I think Stuard more or less when you were teeing off was at 7 under. How much were you aware that you needed to post some kind of number?

NATE LASHLEY: I had heard that Snedeker shot 7 under, but I wasn't really thinking about it all that much. I was just more focused on trying to do what I was doing out there. I just wanted to go out, and I got off to a nice start again, which was what I was really hoping for, and that kind of calmed my nerves. I just continued on with that for the rest of the round and it went about as good as it could have went.

Q. When you're at the high point of your career at this point, do you think about what you've been through in your life and career and your journey so far ever?

NATE LASHLEY: Yeah, it definitely crosses your mind. It came through my mind at one point today. At some points it's not easy, but it goes through your mind and it's something that's always going to be there for me.

Q. Your caddie played golf at a high level. As a bag man, does that influence your communication knowing that the skill level that he has or has had can influence you in a positive way? How's that work?

NATE LASHLEY: Yeah, I mean, obviously him playing -- he played professional golf for a few years, so he's got a lot of knowledge of the game. He's caddied for me for almost two years now, so he's got a really good idea obviously how I hit shots, how far, what I like to do with them, so we talk them over. We've been doing a really good job of it this week, of getting the right numbers and figuring out the wind and hitting good shots.

Q. When you were flipping houses a few years back, was there any part of you that you thought that you might again get to this position and have the opportunity that you have tomorrow?

NATE LASHLEY: Well, definitely not when I was flipping houses. I thought I was pretty much done with golf. You know, I always felt like I had the talent and ability to play out here and it was just a matter of getting out here and getting comfortable. It's not an easy thing to do, by no means, but take some time and I feel like I'm finally there and hopefully I can take advantage tomorrow.

Q. It seems trivial, but how much fun are you having out there? It just seems like you're having a good time with hitting the good shots and seeing the things that you're seeing in your mind come to fruition.

NATE LASHLEY: I mean, I'm having a little bit of fun. It's a little stressful trying to get your first win, and also I'm 132nd on the FedExCup, so a good finish goes a long way here. I can't really say I'm having a whole lot of fun because I'm pretty focused out there and a little nervous at the same time. But, you know, I'll save the fun for after the tournament.

Q. Is there anybody in your camp from a swing perspective, psychological or just a friend that really you kind of rely on or really helps get you in the frame of mind that you're in right now?

NATE LASHLEY: I work with a couple guys in Phoenix, Mitch McDowell and Scott Watkins, just on my swing. The other stuff I kind of do on my own. You know, I work on my short game, putting. I do my own thing with that pretty much.

Mentally, psychologically, I just do pretty general stuff, you know, some meditation and stuff like that, you know, because there's really no -- you really can't prepare for what your mind's going to go through on the golf course, especially in this situation where you're trying to get

your first win. So it's kind of a learning curve and I'm just trying to take it one shot at a time and continue to play well.

Q. What are your plans for tonight? How do you keep your mind off tomorrow?

NATE LASHLEY: Probably just same thing I've done the other nights, just go out to dinner. I've got a couple buddies in town, so probably go out to dinner with them and just relax and try to get some sleep.

Q. Yeah, you said you were feeling focused and nervous at the same time. Holes 1, 2 and 3 tomorrow, what are you going to be trying to do in terms of trying to stay in the moment and achieve what you want?

NATE LASHLEY: Probably really just trying to focus in on the shots I'm trying to hit and stay in my routine. Pretty general, what most all the players are trying to do out here. Especially when you're nervous, you really want to take your mind off the external thoughts and really focus in on what you're trying to do with that shot.

JOHN BUSH: Nate, you've got a lot of people pulling for you tomorrow. Best of luck.