

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
July 7, 2019



MATTHEW WOLFF (-21)

MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome our 2019 3M Open champion, Matthew Wolff. What an amazing day, what an amazing finish. I think you've excited a lot of people here.

There are a lot of great things that go with this victory that we'll get to shortly, but just some comments first about that putt on the last, the emotions and what it means to you right now.

MATTHEW WOLFF: I don't think it's really settled in yet. It's life changing. You know, like you've seen it all before the last couple weeks, first-time winners and stuff. It's something that I've always dreamed of as a kid growing up.

This round was -- I learned a lot from it, but to have it end like this was everything I could have hoped and wished for. The putt on the last was, gosh, something that changed my life forever.

It was -- you know, I'm speechless right now. It's something that, you know, I'll definitely remember as not only my first win, but that putt and to do that with all the nerves and trying to get my Tour card was pretty special to me.

You know, I had the same celebration when I won the National Championship at Oklahoma State. I kind of stepped and yelled "Come on!" So it was cool to see that. And like I said, it still hasn't settled in, but just a dream come true.

MARK WILLIAMS: Well, with this victory you become a Tour member once you sign on that dotted line obviously. There's a lot of things that go with that; the two-year exemption, you get into the Sentry Tournament of Champions early next year, THE PLAYERS Championship, the majors, the Masters, so many different things that come at you.

Have you had a chance to think about what is the most important thing? Is it the exemption, is it a specific tournament that you're looking forward to?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I would say the Masters. That's something that I've always dreamed of. My birthday's April 14th, so I don't know what it falls on next year, but when Tiger won it this year it was on my birthday. So it would be pretty cool to get that Masters win on my birthday.

But that's something that's the most prestigious event in golf. Augusta National Golf Club is amazing and I've always wanted to play there and never got to. That tournament is something that I'm really looking forward to.

For the most part, it's just playing on the PGA TOUR, that job security. I'm a 20-year-old and I'm saying "job security," but it's just, it really is. I knew as soon as I left college that I'm out here with the best players in the world and I have to prove myself, and I did that. Just feels nice to get that kind of, you know, six starts with trying to get my card off my shoulders. Now I'm just free to play my game.

MARK WILLIAMS: One more note worth pointing out before we take questions, Matt. You're the third NCAA champions that's gone on to win in the same season as winning NAAs and winning on the PGA TOUR. You join Tiger Woods and Ben Crenshaw in that, so that's pretty good company to keep.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, that's not bad. It has been a quick turnaround with winning Nationals, which is something that I really dreamed of as well, then coming here three tournaments later and winning on the PGA TOUR. It's definitely, you know, something that I never thought could have happened. I believed in myself, but to see it unravel and this is how it's happening is really special.

Owe it all to my family and my friends, my coaches from Oklahoma State, Coach Bratton, Coach Darr and everyone who's on my team. It's really special to me and I couldn't have done it without them.

Q. Matthew, can you talk about what was going through your head as you're lining up this final putt, arguably one of the biggest putts you ever had to make in your career?

MATTHEW WOLFF: The biggest. My mind was actually pretty calm. I was really nervous, I was shaking a little bit once I was behind the putt, but I took a couple deep breaths and that settled me down.

I've been told so many times before that I was born for moments like these, I live for moments like these. It doesn't get better than this. I had a blast out there, and to make that putt was everything. You know, for me it was just, you know, kind of staying calm, doing what I do. And not a lot of putts were dropping today. I kind of told myself, you know, this wouldn't be a bad time for one to go my way.

To see it, I kind of looked away like a foot out because I knew it was in. But yeah, I mean, I just, like I said, it was the most excited I've ever been. I'm usually not an emotional guy at all, but tears definitely came to my eyes when I stepped off and picked that ball up out of the hole.

Q. Matthew, two things. First of all, congratulations. Could you talk about maybe just the carryover from having a college season like you did where you've won six times, NCAA title; was there a carryover of maybe the feeling, the competitive feeling of being in the hunt to win a tournament that just carried over from college to here?

MATTHEW WOLFF: It's funny you ask that. My coach, Coach Darr -- like I said, Coach Darr and Coach Bratton are really big people in my life and I look up to them and go to them if I ever need advice.

I was texting Coach Darr last night. I was telling him I'm going to learn a lot from today, I'm feeling really good, I'm going to go out there and do what I do and play the game I love. Like I said, it worked out.

But he was pretty much telling me, he goes, "You can do it. You know, your winning is no different at any level, it's about being in that moment, it's about handling it, staying calm, staying present." He kind of made a little stat. Obviously I played in college, but he said, "In the last six months, you probably won more than any single person in this field."

That kind of hit with me. You know, I know how to win, I know how to seal the deal and I live for moments like that putt or those clutch moments where you have to step up to the stage. And that's what I did. It was awesome.

Q. I have a follow-up and that is when we talked at the Memorial tournament when you got the Jack Nicklaus Award, you were toying with maybe staying an amateur through the summer. Obviously you didn't need to do that because here you are, but just wonder what flipped in your mind to just say, "I'm ready, I'm going to go out there"?

MATTHEW WOLFF: It was definitely a hard decision with my team, my family, my agency and everyone. We took a long time for this. I believed I was ready, my game was ready, but that's a big step going from amateur golf to playing for a living at such a young age. Obviously people like Jordan Spieth and Joaquin, who's out here, there's a lot of people out here who have done it at such a young age, but it's a lot to handle, especially with the quick turnaround, you know, of the sponsors' exemptions that I was going to get and I really wanted to play Walker Cup.

There were a lot of things to take in mind, but I figured winning a national championship, there's no better time, my confidence could never be higher. I kind of just rode the wave and felt like it was my time to go. I completed everything I wanted to in college and now I've done something that very few people could say they've done and it makes me really happy.

Q. Matthew, I'm sure you could hear the roars on 18 when Bryson sunk that putt for eagle. How did you stay composed after that and did that change anything for you in your approach over the water?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I was watching it, so it was pretty exceptional. I was watching it as he sunk that putt. It was kind of a delay actually from the crowd roar to when I saw him throw the fist pump.

So it was great playing by Bryson. He's obviously one of the best players in the world and

he's proven himself. To be able to have a chance against him is awesome.

But my mindset was kind of the same with that shot. I knew I was going to go for it. Collin was in the fairway a little closer to the green and he made the putt to, you know, go one up on me. So I knew I needed to birdie at least to get into a playoff, but my mindset was birdie the entire way.

And when he did that, I kind of told myself and talked to Steve, it would be pretty special to roll in an eagle and finish this deal off on 18. Kind of that little adrenaline boost, you know, I guess kind of motivated me.

No, I didn't change my shot or change my plan or anything. It was the same plan before or after -- before or after he made that putt and just happy that it kind of went my way.

Q. Matthew, have you talked to Hollis since you walked off the 18th green and what will you tell other players on Tour about this tournament?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I haven't seen Hollis. He kind of rushed off because he needed a Bud Light.

MARK WILLIAMS: He just walked in with one.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Oh, look it, it's in his hand. (Laughs.)

Obviously it's way more special with my first PGA TOUR win, something that I'm never going to forget. That putt I'm never going to forget.

All the fans here have been exceptional. I played with a hometown guy, Tom Lehman, who's one of the nicest guys on Tour, but you think there might be a few favorites with him being in the group. The fans were just unbelievable.

The golf course is unbelievable. It suits my eye, but I just really think it's a good test of golf. It's something that will reward you if you play well, but if you don't, it can kind of humble you a little bit, which is something that I really like. Obviously I hit it far, so I like how it's a little longer.

But it's one of my best events, or one of my favorite events that I've played. I've only played in four, but it was -- it's been a really special week and I would definitely recommend that everyone get to play this event because, like I said, the fans, the volunteers, it's run so smoothly, they treat us amazingly, and Hollis is a really good guy. He really likes helping out young people, and I think that's one thing that has gotten so much better on the PGA TOUR is seeing all these young guys and giving them this opportunity. Thankful I took advantage of that.

Q. Matt, you, Viktor, Collin, Justin have all kind of been linked together and have

been pretty hyped since turning professional. Maybe some say overhyped. Does this sort of answer some questions about what you guys have all done over the last couple weeks?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I mean, trying to put it in a way like me, Viktor and Collin and Justin coming out, we were the top four amateurs in the world. I wouldn't say it was overhyped, it's just everyone is looking for that new thing, the new player coming up. That was Jordan Spieth a couple years ago, Jon Rahm was in that. There's always that new guy. That's just kind of what happens is people who come out and try to make a statement out here, they get put in the spotlight.

I think what not only what I've done this week, but what Collin's done in all of his starts and Viktor as well, I think that we've all kind of proven that we can play with these guys.

And the hype, it's cool but it's all just talk really. It's what you believe in, what you step up to the tee and have going through your mind.

You know, at the same time there's people that, you know, still criticize me. I saw a Tweet the other day, I think after I made the cut, some guy tweeted and took a picture of my finishes. It was tied for 50th at Waste Management, tied for 80th and missed cut. There's always people who are going to go out there and put you down a notch. There's always people who will go out there and tell you you're the best player in the world. I think that kind of motivated me a little bit, but at the end of the day it's all talk and what you believe is the most important thing and who you have around you is the most important.

Q. Are you going to Tweet back to that guy now?

MATTHEW WOLFF: No, I'll just let him sit on his couch.

Q. You're 20 and theoretically can't drink, so what are you going to celebrate with?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Maybe a virgin pina colada. That's the only virgin drink I can think of.

Q. The Masters ends on April 12th next year.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Thanks for ruining my dreams.

Q. Sorry about that. Got a couple of reasons to celebrate.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah.

Q. Your thoughts on 18 as a finishing hole? Great memories obviously with the eagle, but just your thoughts on that hole and that being a finishing touch?

MATTHEW WOLFF: It's my favorite hole in golf now. No, it's awesome obviously because I

love risk-reward par 5s. I'm a huge par 5 guy. I love par 5s because I hit it far.

But I watched that -- when they had the Champions Tour event here, I remember that fairway being so wide and it being just pretty much a gimme birdie. I really like what they did, narrowed the fairway, brought that water in. It's something that I love that being the last hole, because coming down the stretch like it proved, you know, Bryson was one back of me and eagled, now he's one up. Then Collin -- or I hit it just left of the green, Collin hit it on the green. It's a hole that probably we make look easy, but it really isn't. And something that I really love to have, any golf course that finishes with that because it's somewhere where you can have a one-up lead and hit it in the water or you can be two down and make eagle and tie it up and stuff. So I really like those finishing. The putt was pretty special. Like I said, this course is one that I'm always going to remember.

Q. How many times do you think you and Collin have played over the years and how comfortable was that final pairing for you?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I was making comments earlier actually to my family and stuff. It might -- it settled me down a lot more having Collin there because it's just like every other time we've played. Obviously it's a little different, but we played high school together. I remember when I was a freshman in high school and he was a junior, or I was a sophomore and he was a senior.

I was walking down 17 with him, we were all tied and I told him North Ranch Country Club, we had a high school tournament there and I was just thinking about the days that I was playing with him, and then, you know, when I went to La Cañada where he's from.

It definitely settled me down and made me feel a lot more comfortable. He's an unbelievable player. He was really happy for me as I walked off the green, as I am for him. I really hope he kind of balls out the next couple tournaments and gets his Tour card and joins me out here, because I'd would love to see it along with Viktor as well.

But yeah, Collin, I've played so much golf with him, known him for a such long time. Such a good guy and a great player as well. I was really happy to share that first win with him, I guess.

Q. It's been a while since the college -- people came from the college game straight into the PGA TOUR. Guys go to challenge Tour and the Web.com. Does your performance and Collin's performance this week say something bigger about the state of the NCAA and college golf?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I guess you could say that. I mean, I believe that players are developing a lot earlier now, as you saw in Jordan Spieth coming out here and getting his card. Jon Rahm stayed for four years at Arizona State, he got his card right away. Not very many people do it. I'm not saying it's easy because obviously that's not the word and it's really hard.

The players, you know, in college and stuff are developing a lot quicker. They're getting a lot better and their games, they're maturing, I guess, quicker. I guess you can say that. And coming out here, it translates pretty well, NCAA golf to the PGA TOUR, especially if you're at the top of the NCAA in the college ranks.

I mean, it just kind of speaks on it, too, because Collin and I have different games. He's more strategic, he definitely hits it really straight, and not that I don't, but I like to take driver a lot more and stuff. We have different games, but obviously they both translate out here. It's more just who you are, the maturity level and, like I said, believing in yourself.

Q. Just curious if Collin, when he got that hot streak and caught you, if that in some way woke you up a little bit, because you were kind of in neutral for a while and then you seemed to respond to it.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I didn't try to be in neutral.

Q. No, I know. I'm wondering if you just responded to his run, maybe just kind of kick started you again?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I mean. Definitely I had gone to the scoring tent and I kind of told him he scared me on that back nine. He was making putts and making a move. I didn't expect anything less from him. Like I said, he's a great player, good friend, and it was cool to have this moment, share it with him and battle down like we did in high school and in college and now on the biggest stage. It was really cool to see that.

It definitely, you know, kicked me in the butt knowing that he birdied -- he shot 30 on the back. I mean, with that eagle I shot 31, but it just really shows the type of players we are. We love the pressure, we love that kind of just you have to make this putt, you have to hit this shot. We live for that and we embrace it and it's a lot of fun.

MARK WILLIAMS: Well, Matthew, congratulations again. You've got 500 FedExCup points and you're on your way to the FedExCup Playoffs, so congratulations.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Thanks, guys.