

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
November 22, 2020



ROBERT STREB (-19, won 2nd playoff hole)

JOHN BUSH: I would like to welcome Robert Streb into our virtual interview area, the first two-time champion of the RSM Classic.

Robert, what a day. If we could get your thoughts on your second victory here at Sea Island.

ROBERT STREB: It's awesome. Obviously getting the trophy at the end is phenomenal.

We've got selfies going on over here.

It was a bit of a struggle today at times. It was pretty solid there and then kind of lost it for a little bit. Just kind of hung in there and fortunately nobody got too far away and kind of snuck out of the playoff there.

JOHN BUSH: Talk a little bit about how this changes your goals for the rest of this season now as we're about to head into the break for a couple weeks.

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, it changes my schedule dramatically. I was just trying to get some good tournaments in so I had a better number for the start of the new year. Obviously now I can kind of pick my schedule and choose what I want to do and it just makes things a lot easier.

Q. Robert, congratulations. I'm wondering if there was one moment when you were thinking about tapping in before Kiz even made his putt for par in the second playoff hole.

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, I figured he would give it a pretty good run there on that pitch. You obviously never know. That par putt he made was really impressive.

Q. Robert, I wanted to just ask you, did you feel like the tournament was slipping away from you until your 6-iron at 17 and even standing over the par putt on 18 in the playoff?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, between the missed putts on 13, 15 and 16, I kind of felt like it was getting away. Kind of wondering if Kiz was going to get to 20 or not. I got a pretty nice bounce on that 6-iron there on 17 and fortunately made a putt after I had missed several. I'd like to have given that putt on 18 a little better go, but felt very fortunate to get into the playoff.

Q. What do you feel like the biggest difference is this week between your play here

the last few years?

ROBERT STREB: I felt like the first three days it was my putter, I made a lot of putts. The ball-striking got better kind of as the week went, hit some close and just I felt like I scored really well. And I think I only made two bogeys all week, so that was pretty helpful.

Q. What was -- maybe in the years since the first RSM victory, was there a most frustrating moment or was there a time that you were perplexed that you weren't repeating that success from 2015?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, it was, I don't know, I guess I kind of expected it would just kind of keep the same trend. It was tough. And then 2018 I think, that was a really difficult year, ended up getting that win on the Korn Ferry and I kind of treaded water for a little while. I felt like things were starting to get a little better and I wasn't quite getting the results, but wasn't expecting this, either.

Q. Robert, did you make a putter change this week or has that been your go-to putter all year?

ROBERT STREB: I've had that putter for a while. Just been working on some things and, I don't know, for whatever reason I felt I was reading the greens well and was making a lot of putts. Sometimes that just happens, I guess, and I capitalized on it.

Q. Any thoughts on making Sea Island your permanent home?

ROBERT STREB: Maybe I should, or at least come down here for the winter or something. It's been very good to me.

Q. Robert, I'm trying to multitask here so I might have missed this here, but did you talk about that fine little pitching wedge you hit in the playoff? Have you seen a replay of it to see how close it came to coming in, and could you just say some really nice things about it, please?

ROBERT STREB: I did not see a replay.

Q. You should.

ROBERT STREB: It kind of sounds like it. It was 158 and we were planning on the ball kind of knuckling out of there and jumping. You're kind of at the mercy of whatever you get and it came out really well. I was just hoping it would kind of land soft and obviously it just, it worked out as good as you could hope for.

Q. What's that feeling when you're walking up to the green and you get a good sense of it all?

ROBERT STREB: It's pretty cool. I couldn't quite tell how close it was until I was all the way up by the hole, but you know, I don't know, it's really nice to sit there and have a little one-foot putt instead of trying to make a six-, seven-, eight-footer.

Q. Lastly, then I'll hang up and listen, if you think about getting your card back through the Korn Ferry Finals a little bit more than a year ago, having everything frozen so you don't lose status and here you are exempt really through the end of '23 almost, can you talk about what that means to you about starting the year in Hawaii, going back to Augusta, all that stuff?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, it's really cool. It's been some ups and downs, a lot of downs and a few good bright spots here and there. The way things shook out with COVID, them extending everybody's status was really nice. They could have sent me right back to the Korn Ferry Finals and had to go back that way, but it shook out really nice. Then obviously going to Maui and Augusta's pretty awesome.

Q. Robert, do you ever wear a golf glove?

ROBERT STREB: No. I think my caddie said I've worn one maybe three times. It's usually raining sideways.

Q. Why is it that? So many guys do, why is it that you do not?

ROBERT STREB: Just the thing as a kid, I didn't like the way it felt and never really wore one. Just a really old habit from when I was 7, 8 years old.

Q. My question is when you get into a playoff that's probably the most personal situation you can get, Kevin's a really strong match play golfer and a tough guy, when you get in that situation, does your mindset become more personal? Do you start considering your opponent a little bit more than you would normally?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, because you're only trying to beat one person, you don't have the rest of the field to worry about. Yeah, I felt very fortunate to get to a second playoff hole. As good as he is, I kind of -- there was a very good chance he was going to make that birdie putt on the first hole and I felt lucky to have a crack at par. Made it and got another swipe at it.

Q. Robert, what is this in terms of validation of the first victory, what does this mean to you?

ROBERT STREB: It's really nice to say I've got more than one. Obviously it's great to win one, but winning more than once is, I don't know, I guess validates what ability you have and it was just kind of unexpected and super nice to get.

Q. And ice cream tonight?

ROBERT STREB: Most likely. I haven't missed this week.

Q. Robert, considering that both your victories were Playoffs, do you consider yourself kind of a playoff type player, that you enjoy that pressure?

ROBERT STREB: I don't know about that, but I'm good at two out of three, I think, or three out of four maybe. Just I guess it simplifies it a little bit, you're just playing the guy standing there. It's a little bit different animal, maybe change what you're doing based on what somebody else does.

Q. You're sort of -- did your emotions change when the playoff started?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, a little bit. I guess because you're done with the round and then you go right back out there and you're still trying to play the last hole, win a golf tournament. I guess it's just a little bit different because you've got the whole formality of it on the tee. I guess once you hit that tee ball, you're kind of back to it.

Q. You said unexpected. Which one of the two wins was more unexpected, which one was harder and which one are you more proud of?

ROBERT STREB: That's a hard question.

Q. That's what I'm here for.

ROBERT STREB: I guess getting in a playoff that first go-round was very unexpected and just everything kind of fell my way there, made a bunch of birdies at the end. Then this one, I guess coming into the week I'd been playing all right, but to kind of have the lead for that long, I guess get down to the end there, it was pretty satisfying to pull it off. I guess, I don't know, maybe a little more proud of this one because I got the second one, but they're both pretty great.

Q. Interesting rhythm today where you were pretty steady, but you had people below you shooting 62, 63 as they kind of came up. What is that like? Probably a lot of us have played in team sports where a comeback is having -- it's sort of a nervy feeling. If you could describe that.

And then was there a point looking at 17, was there a point where you kind of said, okay, it's time to stop coasting and time to turn the engine on?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, I thought some guys would go low, I didn't think it would be that many. Obviously the wind was not the same as the last few days, but I was doing all right there at the turn. Kind of 13, 15, 16, that was a little tough. If I make even two out of three of those I'm in a lot better spot, and I had been making those all week and missed a few. Yeah, you kind of got to stick to what you're used to doing. Fortunately, I had a decent head start.

Q. Do you think based on that and the kind of negative momentum you kind of had, the tee shot on 17 may have been your most important shot of the day?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, for sure. I got a pretty nice little bounce there and it was nice to hit a good putt and have it go in and have a chance there at the last.

Q. Obviously Maggie was pregnant the first time you won, now you've got two kids. What will the kids' reactions be to bringing home the trophy?

ROBERT STREB: I think they'll be excited. I'm not sure they'll quite understand what it means, but they'll be pretty happy. I'm sure they watched a little bit of it on TV today.

Q. Robert, you mentioned early on about how this allows you to pick and choose and set your schedule and things like that. Can you just give us a quick idea of what that means? Places like Riviera, which are limited fields and things like that. What would you have done? What will you do now, ballpark?

ROBERT STREB: I was still on the bubble for Mexico after Thanksgiving. When you're in that Korn Ferry category, you're just at the mercy of whether guys want to play or not. Sometimes you've got to wait until the Friday before, sometimes you get a call on Monday to hop on an airplane. It's nice to be able to plan and try to pick the places you like or the invitationals or whatever it might be. I guess you know you can prepare for it, you know you're going to play and that part of it's pretty nice.

Q. It seemed like a ton of guys were anxious to get going with the restart. Were you able to get in tournaments pretty easily?

ROBERT STREB: No. I snuck into Travelers was the first one because they had some COVID cases. It could have been worse, but my number was good enough I got quite a few starts. I was pretty happy about it because I didn't know how much guys were going to play because everything was so up in the air and still trying to make that FedEx playoff.

Q. What do you consider the single best thing about winning today?

ROBERT STREB: I don't know. You get to do Maui, Augusta, PLAYERS, I think PGA. All those are pretty good, yeah.

Q. The exemption?

ROBERT STREB: Yeah, just getting to play in those big tournaments, it's really nice.

Q. Robert, let's take one last stab at just why you think the game all came together this week. What clicked?

ROBERT STREB: To me, it was just the putter. I had some pretty good spats of ball-striking in the middle, but I made some putts early and some good par putts the first round, then made a good chunk of them coming down the stretch that got me to 5 under on a pretty windy day the first round. Made a bunch of putts second and third round. I missed a few today, but overall I would say it's the best I putted in a long time.

JOHN BUSH: Robert, congratulations once again. Thank you for your time.

ROBERT STREB: Thanks.