

BUBBA WATSON (-8)

Q. What did you find out there today, Bubba?

BUBBA WATSON: I mean, it's just easy when -- when I say easy, easy's not the right word, but the wind's not really blowing, really smooth greens. As we -- as everybody knows, a golf course like this, the kind of grass it is, especially the rain that we've had, afternoon rounds it gets -- it can get bumpy. So the greens were just smooth. Only Phil in front of us, so I guess he was the one making footprints if there was any, so I have nobody to blame.

I just putted good, rolled the ball nice. Again, you could figure out the clubs a lot easier because there wasn't that much wind, and that's usually what happens. Look at every golf tournament, there's always somebody that plays pretty good in the morning because they come out, they free it up and they don't have the wind and they have the smooth greens.

Q. Do you have any thoughts on where the lead might go today based on the conditions out there?

BUBBA WATSON: When I checked the weather, we're looking at lighter winds than the last couple days. I'd say 15-ish, somewhere in that area.

Q. Are you feeling in a good place with your game, how you've been playing lately?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, for sure. Man, I made the cut but I was like 2.2 in putting, negative 2.2 in putting. One of those things. Then the next day you putt good. Like today I made some putts, kept the rounds going. It's just one of those things. Golf is hard, so I thought -- I thought I've been playing it well. Had chances in both majors, the last couple majors, just kind of fell off, just kind of lost energy on the weekends. Last week I played really nicely, just kind of golf got hard again on the back nine. Yeah, I thought I've been playing pretty nicely.

Q. You've been a part of this tournament since it started and have done everything over and above, created some ideas and been such a big part of the community efforts here. What do you make of just seeing the fans back out here and again being part of a big night the other night on Tuesday?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, no, it's awesome. That's what we're all striving for, back to some call it normalcy. So seeing everybody out here, getting to feel the energy, getting to feel the love is obviously, it's really good, especially when you -- like yesterday they kept cheering for me and pulling for me to make a birdie so I could make the cut. I've never made a cut here, so it was nice to make the cut.

And then today, making putts. Obviously they were following Phil around, but then when I started making some putts and making birdies, it started growing a little bit. Yeah, that's what we do it for. We're entertainers, so when we get the crowd and the energy, that's when we start flowing. A lot of times you can use that to your advantage.

Q. The tournament's young and again there were no fans here and spectators here last year, but is there anything about this tournament that is starting to stand out that you think about, okay, Detroit's on the Tour stop, this is what it means to me?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah. I've said over and over, what Dan Gilbert has done, what Rocket Mortgage has done, the sponsorship done, it's about giving back, it's about growing the community, making a community better. I want to take that, my small piece of Dan Gilbert, back to my town and try to help out. That's what I see for myself is that I see the giving back and the charity side of it and trying to help a community.

Q. Bubba, were you made aware of the protocols and procedures at The Open Championship?

BUBBA WATSON: People have been talking about it, but I haven't paid attention. I'm vaccinated and I'm going to go if I get in and I got in, so I'm going.

Q. Do you know if you're going to rent a house or how you're going to have your team?

BUBBA WATSON: My assistant hasn't said we got refused, so I guess I rented a house. There was about five houses, so I picked one. Then I'm on the charter with John Deere and then I'm on the charter back to 3M. I'm as safe as I can possibly be, trying to be.

Q. What's your scouting report for Royal St. George's relative to other Open venues?

BUBBA WATSON: Well, it's funny, 2011-ish we played there and so we had to look it up and I think I finished 30th and I don't remember anything. I tried to find photos of the golf course. Every time you see the photos on the internet, it's always different than the tournament, right? Like here, when all this stuff goes away you can see all the back nine, but now the stuff's here so you can't see the back nine, especially standing here. So it's the same thing when you get to the tournament.

I think when I get there I'll remember what happened and different things, but yeah, I finished 30th only because I Googled it to see what I finished.

Q. Bubba, how long did it take you to get over what happened on Sunday?

BUBBA WATSON: What Sunday?

Q. Last Sunday, Travelers.

BUBBA WATSON: Oh, I'm over it.

Q. How long did it take?

BUBBA WATSON: I don't know, when did I sign my scorecard? I was good.

Q. Yeah?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah. I mean, I didn't feel -- like yesterday, you know, I can sit here and we can talk about my whole round, my whole back nine yesterday. Teddy said it looked like I stroked the putts good. I three-putted a couple holes yesterday, so I went from 5 under cruising, not really missing any greens, only missed three greens yesterday and I made some bogeys yesterday, so I went from 5 under to 1 under, missing the cut. Then I somehow birdied a couple holes coming down the stretch to make the cut.

Same thing there, I chose a club on 14 which was the wrong choice at that moment. Now looking back it's easy to think that, which caused me -- then I hear the birdie on 16, so it caused me to just try to press when I shouldn't have pressed without iron off the tee. Should have just tried to hit it just to the right and short. So I don't think it was bad golf or anything like that, it was just one of those things. I've screwed up there before and I'll probably screw up there again. Yeah, I was over it quick.

Q. At what point in your career did you stop thinking about the money, that like, you know, you would have won over a million dollars and you didn't?

BUBBA WATSON: You know, it's funny, going back even when I turned pro, even when I was broke, I never once thought about money. I've never thought about a three-footer to make money or a three-footer to make the cut or a three-footer to win or anything like that. I just play golf. I attack, and if I have a chance to attack or play smart because of money, I'm going to attack because I'm trying to win a golf tournament. I've never been over a putt fearing paying a bill or anything like that even on mini tours. So luckily, I've got other issues to worry about, but I don't have those issues. I never worried about money when I was broke and I'm not worried about money now.