ROUND 1 INTERVIEW August 20, 2021

WOODY AUSTIN (-6)



Q. How happy are you with a 66 today?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, yeah. It's been a rough year, I haven't played well. It's probably the best round I've played all year, probably the only round I've played real good all year and I still made three bogeys, so it's just been a goofy year. I just haven't been able to score. But today I hit it so close so many times, I made enough birdies to offset the stupid three bogeys because I really shouldn't have made a bogey. One was a three-putt and the other two -- the only two greens I miss, I'm barely off the green, I chip them up there close and I can't make a four-footer for a par.

Q. About the worst score you could have there?

WOODY AUSTIN: Well, I can't say that because if I make 10-footers, that's pretty good. So not going to say that I couldn't have shot, but I did stick it like the last hole quite a few times.

Q. So 18, how much is that in your head at all?

WOODY AUSTIN: Well, that's just it. I mean, I played well enough to win several times since then until this year, I just keep finishing second. Somebody keeps either --

Q. A lot of top-10s.

WOODY AUSTIN: -- somebody keeps making it on the last hole on me or beating me in the -- you know, I've lost in three playoffs, but then this year -- like I said, last year, God, I think I finished top-10 almost every time after we came back from COVID and then all of a sudden this year, like I said, it's not that I'm shooting 75, 76, but I go out there and play like I did today and I shoot 70 or 71 because I'm just not making any putts. And then I make, like I said, I make bogeys that there's no way I should have made a bogey today.

Q. How confident are you on the weekend after playing so well today?

WOODY AUSTIN: It was -- I think it was nice to get my three weeks off. I didn't play Canada last week, so I had a good three weeks off to try and get my brain, because like I said, I haven't played terrible but it's been such a disappointing year that I needed the time off. So I'm hoping that it at least gave me a little bit more of a positive --

Q. Because I was looking, I mean, '20 was great.

WOODY AUSTIN: -- positive -- yeah. So, you know, and that's golf. Like I said, it's not like

I'm finishing 60th, it's not like I'm shooting 75, 76, I'm just finishing 25th because I'm -- today was probably the first round of the year I didn't shoot the highest score I could have shot whereas every round this year I think I've shot the absolute highest score I could shoot every single day --

Q. -- game, isn't it?

WOODY AUSTIN: -- and like I said, when you're playing, you might be playing with somebody and they're on the -- I call it the correct side of the game or the wrong side of the game. They're on the correct side of the game and everything goes their way, whether it be a bounce here or there or putts going in. You're lipping out and they're -- it's amazing when you're on the wrong side how often play with somebody who's on the correct side. But that's the game, it has a way of constantly needling you whether you're on the good side or the bad side. If you're on the good side, it's constantly giving you that little bit of, oh, okay, hang in there, that was a good break. When you're on the wrong side, it's like, that was a damn good shot, how'd I make bogey?