

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
November 20, 2021



TALOR GOOCH (-16)

Q. What are you most satisfied with from your round today?

TALOR GOOCH: I mean, any day like that is going to be a grind on the Tour. It's easy to try to stay level par, you know. And to be frank, what you're trying to do out there is avoid bogeys. It would have been easy today at times, like I said, to just really get conservative and really be defensive. And while I was being very conservative at times, I was still able to stay aggressive, the mentality of trying to extend what I have rather than just maintaining and that's not easy to do on a day like today, so I was pleased I was able to stay aggressive at times.

Q. What did you hit into 17?

TALOR GOOCH: 7-iron, yeah. That was a good one.

Q. What was the most creative shot you had to hit today because of the conditions?

TALOR GOOCH: Man, that's a good question. I didn't really have to get too creative at times. For me, my creativity is just hitting it this high and hitting it low, not let the wind get it. Honestly, the tee shot on the last, I don't think people realize not a lot of people have that shot. In fact, who's caddie, either Sebastian's or John's caddie was like, Where'd you grow up, dude? I was like, Oklahoma, we've got to learn how to hit that one like that. So a couple like tee shots that were just tricky that I kind of fall back on my upbringing to hit some of those. Not super creative, not like moving a bunch, but that's kind of the point, not to move a bunch.

Q. Do you have a name for that shot?

TALOR GOOCH: I mean, it's a little stinger. It's a Tiger shot, right? I just have to hit it a little bit more back home than the average guy.

Q. Can we call it the Oklahoma stinger?

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah, absolutely, absolutely.

Q. Looking around like tomorrow, are you somebody -- do you think you enjoy pressure as a person?

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah. I mean, if you don't enjoy pressure, you're in the wrong sport, you know. I've been fortunate since I've been five years old to have a group of buddies that we

all grew up playing sports together and to this day we still -- most of them aren't playing sports anymore. One of them still is. So when we're together we're always competing at something, we're always doing something to put some pressure and try to break each other basically. So it's just what I've always known is just try to enjoy the pressure and try to prove people wrong. That's, yeah, you love it, you love it.

Q. Is there another tournament before this one or a situation where you can think that was a huge pressure packed moment?

TALOR GOOCH: I always go back to Q-School. It's funny, it's like when this feels pressure, I just think back to I was playing TPC Craig Ranch my third time of going through Q-School in 2016 and I was in second stage at TPC Craig Ranch. I was on the number going to the third round and I didn't have any more money and I was 3 over through four walking off the par 3 and I thought to myself, I don't know why this came up, but Best Buy, I'm going to have to go work at Best Buy, I'm going to have to go do something to make a few bucks unless you like get it together.

Fortunately I got it together and I got through second stage, but I always fall back on Q-School.

Q. What year was that?

TALOR GOOCH: '16.

Q. The proving people wrong, does that go back to like Oklahoma State where you playing with like the Tways and the Uihleins, these AJGA All-Americans, that kind of stuff? Is that one reason why maybe you picked that instead of maybe another school?

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah, yeah, I was an AJGA All-American as well, yeah.

Q. Right, I'm sorry.

TALOR GOOCH: No, I've always -- yeah, I mean, it's hard not to have that chip on your shoulder and want to overcome that, you know? Like I remember in recruiting, everyone was like, man, Oklahoma State's pretty good, you don't know if you're going to crack the lineup your first year. I started every time my first year and that's all I wanted to do was to go there and start every time and prove people wrong.

Yeah, I think just as a sportsman, if you don't have that little bit of grit to go prove people wrong, you're not going to make it wrong.

Q. What do you consider to be your best victory to this point in your life?

TALOR GOOCH: I mean, when I won on the Web.com Tour. I was right on the cusp of

getting my card like the week before I finished second, it vaulted me to top-20. There was only a few events left. Then I go to Knoxville and won to solidify it. So that was just, you know, dream come true. I won on Web.com Tour, which then sealed my PGA TOUR card, so that was pretty sweet.

Q. Where does the chip on the shoulder, what's the beginnings of that do you think?

TALOR GOOCH: Man, you know, people not saying you're the best. I want to be the best and I want to compete against the best and I want to be like right now, I want to be the best Oklahoma State golfer on Tour. Everyone talks about Matt Wolff and Viktor Hovland, rightfully so, they're incredible players, but whenever all these other guys are getting talked about, not that I do this for the accolades and all the recognition, whatever, but that's always a nice little something to kind of get you to work a little bit harder, be a little bit more diligent and try to prove them wrong.

Q. When you're in a pressure-packed situation, is there something you do or try to focus on to ease up the pressure a little bit?

TALOR GOOCH: Like with Q-School, I always fall back, like if I could do it then, I could do it at any time. Like I said, I was literally thinking I'm going to have to go get a job, an actual job, and go make some money to pay for my traveling and all that the next year.

To me in this game, that's the ultimate pressure. I always joke about with my friends when these guys are trying to win tournaments and everything and there's all the pressure. It's like, yeah, of course there's tons of pressure, there's tons of money, there's so much on the line, but it's just, I don't know, it's just different. Different when it's people are comfortable here. I was in survival mode then. Yes, I want to do well. I'm not in survival mode now like I was then, but I can reflect back on that and know that if I could do it when I was in survival mode, a little more comfort's not going to make it any more challenging.

Q. When's the last time you were in a Best Buy?

TALOR GOOCH: In a Best Buy? Man, that's a good question. Probably pre-pandemic stuff. It's been a while.

Q. Just curious why that would have come to your mind.

TALOR GOOCH: I have no idea. I don't know why, it just did. I had -- I've never had a job in my life and I was like there's got to be something like a Best Buy where even I can go and do this and they'll let me work there.

Q. Have a fear of wearing a nametag?

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah, correct.

Q. Those best buddies of yours, do you expect to hear from them tonight and what will they say?

TALOR GOOCH: For sure. Well, so we do this group golf trip, it's always the first week of January and so I'm hopeful that we're going to have to adjust that. So that's what will be talked about.

Q. Where are you supposed to go?

TALOR GOOCH: We always go to Scottsdale.

Q. Is there a story why there's no Y in your first name?

TALOR GOOCH: My mom's side of the family just spelled names weird and so they just wanted to keep the tradition going. Nothing special other than they just wanted to make life hard on me, I guess. It's a pain in the butt a little bit.

Q. Does it get mispronounced a lot?

TALOR GOOCH: Not a lot, but more than what you would expect.

Q. Do you have other examples of family names that are --

TALOR GOOCH: My sister -- my mom's name is Ambre and it's A-M-B-R-E. My sister's name is Cassidi it's C-A-S-S-I-D-I. My -- I mean especially all the women in the family on my mom's side, all their names are spelled uniquely.

Q. Do you think you're going to do the same, or did you do the same?

TALOR GOOCH: No, it wasn't unique, no. We cut the tradition. I don't want her to have to deal with all the struggles I had to with the weirdly spelled name.