ROUND 1 INTERVIEW December 2, 2021

BROOKS KOEPKA (-5)



Q. Brooks, how would you assess the round today?

BROOKS KOEPKA: I thought the first 14 holes were pretty good, or 13, whatever it was, up to the par 3. Then just got a little sloppy with the driver. Made that bogey and then didn't birdie the drivable par 4, the par 5. So a little disappointing, but at the same time I didn't shoot myself out of it, so I'm all right.

Q. Are you still getting used to that driver? (Inaudible.)

BROOKS KOEPKA: No. Have you seen my scores lately? That's probably more to do with it, just little bad habits creeping in. I worked my tail off over the last two months and I see the light at the end of the tunnel. I'm damn close and it was nice to come out today and see the shots that come out the right window, right flight, right shape, everything, right spin. Just go work on it here for a little bit more and just getting better and better every day.

Q. How's little bro doing on the bag?

BROOKS KOEPKA: He's good, he's good. I mean, he knows what he's doing, so it will be all right.

Q. Is there any adjustment you make with him on the bag compared to Rickie?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, obviously Rick kind of knows what I'm doing before I even do it, but Chase is a hell of a player anyway. He knows pretty much what the wind's playing. It would be like if he was playing, just probably a little different clubs.

Q. Is Ricky just on vacation back home?

BROOKS KOEPKA: I think he's back home in Orlando, but he's going to go back home and see his folks in Northern Ireland.

Q. I don't have your tournament history in front of me --

BROOKS KOEPKA: What?

Q. Your tournament history is not in front of me, but seems like you're kind of hit and miss in terms of playing here, or playing well here maybe.

BROOKS KOEPKA: No, yeah, it's not good.

Q. I wanted to say that, but I wasn't confident. Considering how bad you suck here, why are you here? Have you thought about --

BROOKS KOEPKA: Trying to find it, man. It's been one of those things the last, I don't know, it feels like the last two years have been a struggle except for the majors or WGCs. I think four top-20s in the last two years that are outside of WGCs, it's not been very good. Just trying to figure it out.

I think obviously there's been some unfortunate things that have happened to me and it's -- just got to grind through it. I'm finding ways just to get through it and figure out my golf swing again and just get out and go play. Sometimes when you don't have it, it feels like you're never going to get it again, but just got to keep going, keep fighting and figure it out.

But I do see the light at the end of the tunnel. That's kind of why I'm playing, just trying to get reps. I had enough time off in March and April and all the other months I missed, so I'll be all right.

Q. Are you at all looking forward to next year, and if you are, is your excitement level the same as it's been in previous years?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, I think so. I think especially with like the equipment changes I've made, I'm very, very happy, very pleased, Srixon with the ball. It's been very easy, which is a good thing. Just need to start swinging it good. I'm pretty close, not all the way there, but it's very, very close.

Q. Do you feel good right now this time of year?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, I feel good, I feel fine. A little bit of proprioception, like trying to figure out how much your knee's bending. My stance got so wide just for the fact trying to make sure I'm probably not -- when I came back, I've got a little stronger base and don't have to push off as much, but now the knee's fine. It's just going back and trying to find out -- make sure everything's, you know, the simple stuff like posture, grip, the way we set up to it, all those things are the same as what they've been and that's -- I'm very happy with the direction we're going.

Q. Are you starting in Kapalua or have you decided?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, Kapalua will be the first one. About three weeks off.