

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
December 3, 2021



BROOKS KOEPKA (-10)

Q. Brooks, what have you been happiest with this week so far?

BROOKS KOEPKA: That's a good one because everything's been pretty poor. I would -- to be honest with you, the equipment. I think that's -- it's one thing to try it out on like a 12-hole exhibition, but when you come out here under the gun and really try to shape shots and a little more serious, seeing the ball react the way I want it to, seeing the wedges, the driver, I've been so pleased with it and very happy. It's going to be an easy transition, I think. I told some of the guys, it was just all me, I was swinging it poorly, so it's tough to blame it on anything else.

But now that I've got my swing under somewhat control -- it's not 100 percent but it's really, really close -- we're figuring it out and I'm just happy with everything right now.

Q. You have worked your tail off for a month or so. Are you continuing to see better and better results out of the work that you're putting in?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, day by day it's always getting a little bit better where it feels kind of back to, I wouldn't say normal yet, but it's getting there. A lot of it was just the little idiosyncrasies that your body just makes up for trying to not -- I was never trying to stay off my right leg, but it just kind of naturally happens. I notice it even when I'm standing certain ways, I kind of stand on my left leg a little bit more. So things like that.

My stance was the big thing, it got so wide. Jeff Pierce, my putting coach, and my brother were looking at a side by side on I think Tuesday night and my feet were about a foot wider than where they are now. So I just feel I narrow the stance, I've got more control, my body's not sliding back on my right foot so I don't have to push off. It's been a lot more consistent.

I always picture when I'm hitting the golf ball I've got nine windows in front of me. When you're trying to hit the low stinging draw, you go to the bottom right or whatever. I always feel like I'm kind of hitting the upper left-hand corner and I'm finally starting to do that and it's matching up to what I'm feeling. That's been the big thing I think is matching the feels. Okay, I felt like I missed it right at impact, it's missing right, or if I'm missing left, I feel that at impact. So I'm very happy with the direction we're going.

Q. And have you noticed by any chance that there could be Part 2 of last week's spanking of Bryson since you guys are right there in 1 and 2? Given any thought to that now?

BROOKS KOEPKA: No, I don't give any thought to it because there should be no Part 2. I

mean, I won the online battle, he can't trash talk, and I've won the golf. So 2-0, it's tough to come back from.

Q. Given where you are trying to work things out, is it kind of tricky timing with the year coming to an end? Will you put the clubs away for a while like some of the other guys or will you keep working through December?

BROOKS KOEPKA: No, I mean as frustrated as I've been over the last two years with where my game's at, like I said yesterday, there's four or five top-20s outside of majors and WGCs, so that's not good enough, not good enough for me. You know, we're going to chill next week, go on a little family vacation, but after that, pick the clubs up and just keep grinding away.

Q. When do you know when you've gone from very, very close as you say to there?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Be probably about a week, week and a half away I think to being back full, all right, I've got it, you know. There are moments where I'm like, oh, I think I might have it, and then you hit one bad shot and it's just like, man, I know exactly what it was, how to correct it. Just I'd say if I -- if I wasn't going on a family vacation, putting the clubs away next week, I think by the end of next week I'd have it.

Q. Given that you were a club free agent for so long, curious what went into the decision to go a different route?

BROOKS KOEPKA: That ball. To be honest with you, that ball is what I practiced with on the range. I used to practice with that ball all the time. I think back in '16 we were doing a bunch of testing and with the Srixon ball, it was tied with the ball I was playing and the only reason I chose the other one was just because I played it for longer. I just knew from a little kid that's what I had played, so it was more out of comfort than it was anything.

But, I mean, the irons, I put the irons in right away and won early this year. The ball-striking, I think the irons go a touch higher. Same flight, same spin, but just a touch higher, which is great. And the driver, it's as good as anything I've hit.

Q. Are you planning to play Sentry?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, yeah, that's going to be the first week.

Q. How important is this week and then that month off? You're not taking off, but --

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, I need a good week here. It was just more for my own sanity I think than anything because I was driving myself nuts, but yeah, I need a good week. I can top-20 this week, so I've got that one.

Q. Do you think you can get even better than you were in 2018, which I assume

was -- 2018-2019 was peak Brooks Koepka. Do you think you can elevate to even higher than that?

BROOKS KOEPKA: That wasn't peak.

Q. That wasn't peak?

BROOKS KOEPKA: That wasn't peak. Just wait.