

WILL ZALATORIS (-14)

Q. What was the best shot you hit out there today?

WILL ZALATORIS: Two was pretty awesome, but the one on 11 was just kind of a joke. That's a shot that you're having an up-and-down contest with your buddies, you're just trying to get it somewhere on the green and just got away with it. Two is probably a little bit more important in my opinion just because it got the momentum right for the day.

Q. And then you mentioned this with Amanda, the added distance that you've got with having a little bit longer driver, do you feel like a little more well equipped on a big brawny golf course like this?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, I've always had speed, but I literally texted J.J. from Titleist like three weeks ago and said, hey, just send me a 46 incher and let's just see what happens. I had it the Tuesday before Palm Springs and put it immediately in the bag. It's obviously been great and, like I said, I think today was the best driving day I've had maybe ever.

Q. It looks like you've gained maybe 15 pounds. What's been your diet in the past however long to get that?

WILL ZALATORIS: I've just changed basically what I've been eating. It's kind of reversed intermittent fasting. I've been eating starting at like 6:00 in the morning and then having a later dinner so I'm able to fill in two full meals. Yeah, I've never weighed 172 in my life and it's kind of nice, especially when we play as much as we do out here. I know dog days in the summer it's going to really pay off.

Q. Is that because of the injury last year? What was the motivation to get bigger?

WILL ZALATORIS: Last year I got burned out. Like kind of to your point with the injury, my body couldn't handle playing 25-plus weeks. Last year I started off playing seven in a row starting from Hero all the way through PLAYERS, which was definitely kind of a learning curve, really learning how to rest. I think that I've been needing to do it for a long time and every offseason I always say, hey, let's put on some weight, but there's never been like a goal number, it's just been let's get stronger and get some more endurance.

I think this year working with Dr. Lisi [sp?] back at home and working with Damon Goddard, my trainer, this was the easiest 15 that I've put on. I wish I could say it was kind of hard, but it was having that structure of sticking to it every day made it easy.

Q. How much distance have you gained with the driver?

WILL ZALATORIS: Twelve yards just on TrackMan, kind of hit a stock ball on the range, but get some adrenaline going or maybe get after one, I've clocked it up to 127 with 186 ball speed. A place around here, that's huge. Places like Colonial even, you know. Now I'm having 120 in the rough as opposed to 170 in the rough because I'll be busting driver over the bunkers as opposed to laying up with something short of it. Obviously we've seen what Bryson has done, you won't be seeing me at 220 anytime soon, but definitely the added distance has really paid dividends.

Q. Despite 65, do you think you left a couple out there?

WILL ZALATORIS: Oh, God, yeah.

Q. What's your mindset after what happened on 13 and how did you feel about leaving some out there?

WILL ZALATORIS: It's just tricky because there's a lot of poa annua out here. You've got putts that you've got to play outside the hole from distances you're not really used to playing them out there. Really with the exception of Augusta, the greens are glass there, they're perfect. Out here you can get a little wobble here or there. I think really the two that I left out there today I just didn't commit to playing outside the hole. So I think that's something that definitely tomorrow, just commit to it and hey, if it bounces in, it bounces in; if it bounces out, it bounces out. I think making the birdie putt on 14 kind of righted the ship a little bit because I was pretty frustrated hitting two perfect shots into 13 and walking off with par.

Q. You were out there talking to radio and I think you brought up how good the board was before anybody else did. Do you know who's up there? How do you feel in this position with those names and what you're trying to accomplish for the first time?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, I mean, just go and do what I'm doing. I mean, I still feel kind of like the underdog even though obviously right now I'm solo leader. I'm sure those guys will put some birdies coming in, but just keep doing what I'm doing. Obviously it's been working. My time will come and hopefully it's tomorrow.

Q. Do you feel a little bit more juice at all because of who you're competing against? Have you noticed that in the past when you've been up there?

WILL ZALATORIS: No, not really. That's the one thing I've always told people, being in contention at Augusta and having a chance to win there, it just felt like golf, just stay within my process and stay within who I am and just see what the score adds up to at the end of the day.

Q. And what will you try to focus on tomorrow as far as keeping yourself in the moment?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, just have fun. I mean, I think really the first round last week when I shot 1 under at La Quinta on a place that I could just absolutely torch, my attitude's like I was shooting 85 and I kind of had -- I had a call with Josh Gregory and Dr. Lardon and just said, hey, let's just get back to having fun again. At the end of last year, despite the injury, I was really forcing it to win and that's why when I got in contention a few times like in a Napa and Jackson, I'd kind of peter off on the weekend.

At this point something that Dr. Lardon always said, you're playing with house money, the fact that you've gotten here the way that you have, enjoy it. So I love this golf course. This is the first start that I ever had on the PGA TOUR as a professional, so obviously a lot of great vibes here. This is I think by far one of the best golf courses that suits my game. Just keep enjoying it and whatever happens, happens.

Q. How do you guard against that, trying to win too hard? I'm sure your expectations change after the first half that you had in 2021.

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, I think that -- I think like what I said last week was the first round, like No. 12 last week in the first round, pin's tucked on the left side, can't hit in the left bunker because you're going to make four, and so I end up blocking one out right, hit it in the bunker, hit it to 10 feet and I end up making bogey anyways. It's like I was trying so hard not to make mistakes that I was making mistakes. I think in reality it's kind of like, hey, if you're going to make four, hit it in the left bunker. I think that's kind of the attitude that I've had. Josh Gregory said it best, if you want to shoot 64, sometimes you've got to be willing to shoot 74.

Q. Last year you contended. What did you learn specifically about this course that you'll take with you tomorrow?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, I love playing -- I've always been a great rough player. You've got to drive it great here and I think with the added distance on top of what we've worked on this offseason, I've been driving the ball the best I ever have. I think that's really the biggest difference. Putter gets hot tomorrow and just run the tables and we'll see what happens.

Q. Is your driver right at 46 or --

WILL ZALATORIS: It's a shade under. I know we have 46.2, but it's a shade under.

Q. And it was 44 and a half before?

WILL ZALATORIS: It was 44 and a half before.