

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
January 29, 2022



WILL ZALATORIS (-15, lost first playoff hole)

Q. Not the finish you're looking for, but kind of walk me through today and the emotions right now.

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, no, it was a lot of fun. I fought like hell all day. Kind of like I said earlier, I was kind of more disappointed with what I left out there on the second and third round. I thought today I battled really well. I thought the putt I hit on the 72nd hole, I thought I made it, I just needed a hair more speed. I've seen enough putts through the years coming down that hill to know that that putt just doesn't go left and it happened to go left. But a lot of fun today. I'm kind of, the emotions that I'm kind of feeling are a little bit from Korn Ferry right before I got my first win, I horseshoed one from about 15 feet and then won the next week, so I know my game's really close. I'm fortunate enough I'll be playing next week too on a few golf courses I know really well.

Q. Was there any discussion to not do the playoff today?

WILL ZALATORIS: No, we were fine. I thought, you know, it really got dark fast. I really had to rely on past history on the playoff hole. I really couldn't see much in terms of the read, but I'm not even that disappointed with that part. I made three pars on 18 this week and that's just not going to get it done.

Q. What was the read on the playoff putt? What were you seeing?

WILL ZALATORIS: Right center. it just started bouncing a little early and just broke off hard. I hit a great putt. I mean, I striped both of those putts. You know, for what I could see considering the amount of darkness, I thought I hit a pretty good putt in there. Luke went out and got it. Plugged one in the bunker, hits it up there and hits it to a foot, that's a championship shot right there.

Q. What club did you end up with on the approach into the hole?

WILL ZALATORIS: I hit 50-degree.

Q. And the bizarre nature of you guys driving --

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, no, honestly, very weird. I don't know if they added more sand this week from the open, but there's way more sand in the bunkers this week. Jason Day had one on 5 that was unbelievable, I've never seen anything like that on Tour. Then again, fairways are pretty pure out here, so don't hit it in the bunkers.

Q. This is your first playoff loss on Tour and it all happened so quick, right? Luke makes his birdie, you miss and then you're standing here in front of us. How do you process it all? Where are your emotions right now?

WILL ZALATORIS: I want to go get next week, it's pretty simple. I've got no regrets today at all. Like I said, I thought I battled like hell all day and handled myself really well. I had my chances, for sure, but that's just the nature of this game. It's hard to win out here, there's no question about that.

Q. How tough was the course playing relative to the rest of the week? And you talked about some pins were pretty tough, how tough was it for a final round?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, I mean, basically 14 on were the toughest pins you could have on the green. I mean, 18 kind of a little bit, it's a little difficult, but I mean, it's still -- but 14 through 17, those are the toughest pins you've got so I knew that I needed to play pretty solid through there, and I kept hitting it to 40 feet and lagging up there, making pars as opposed to earlier in the week when I was knocking them -- you could hit kind of a mediocre shot and have 20 feet.

Q. Did you have any sense when you got to 18 in regulation that this is my hole, I'm going to do this here?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, no, totally. I've won multiple events on the amateur level and in college on the 18th hole and I've got a lot of really good -- a lot of really good history to drop back on. Frankly, I can't remember a playoff loss that I've had, so this one's kind of new for me.

Q. Was there any thought if you couldn't see the read in the playoff, was there any thought to just saying let's do this at 7:00 a.m.?

WILL ZALATORIS: No, because I really wanted -- I really wanted to play. In the moment it's kind of hard, you know, to say, hey, let's come back tomorrow. I wanted to bury that putt badly and come back tomorrow. You know, like I said, Luke went out and got it on the 18th hole, that was a hell of a birdie. I hit the fairway, I'm looking at an easy 4 and I didn't do it in back-to-back times.

Q. As a rookie, it almost felt like you're a hometown guy out here and you won a bunch of times. Did that feel like that to you with how much support you got?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, definitely, the fans were incredible this week especially coming in on 18. I definitely felt like the hometown kid. Even before I'm hitting my putts on 18 the crowd's cheering. I know I'll be back. I know I'll get one soon.

Q. That's kind of heartbreaking or crushing there. Just kind of tell me your emotions. Back in regulation, 72nd hole, that putt looked good all the way, didn't it?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah. We didn't see it go left at all and I thought I made it. Just a hair more speed would have gotten it. I'm not disappointed with that. Honestly, I left a lot out there on the second and third round. Either way, I mean, being in the moment was a lot of fun and I know I can do it. We're getting close.

Q. What is it like to be in that moment? Is it surreal? Are you watching yourself doing it? It's a playoff on the PGA TOUR with all these fans here at Torrey Pines.

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, no, this is what I've played for my entire career. I told Ryan today that my career goal is to win a major and this is part of the steppingstone. Obviously pretty disappointed right now, but really proud of how I fought today. There were a lot of tough pins, especially on the back. I had so many close calls today that I thought I made the one on 8, I thought I made the one on 14. You know, I've got no regrets.