ROUND 1 INTERVIEW May 5, 2022

MATTHEW WOLFF (-5)



Q. You mentioned the back nine was the first time you saw it. To shoot a 65 having not been here, how pleased are you with that result?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, I'm thrilled. I definitely -- I played my home course like four days ago and I lost every golf ball I had in my bag, so I really didn't come here expecting to play well. Like I said, I was just trying to work on my attitude and have a good time.

I think sometimes I play courses better when I don't see them just because it frees me up. When you know a course too much, you know where the trouble is and stuff and you might get a little guidey. No, I had a really good time out there. My playing competitors, Luke and C.T. made it super fun. It was fun.

Q. When you talked about working on your attitude, is that anything specific or just overall in general how you think around the course? How do you go about that?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I think it's just more defining my own success. I think coming out with Viktor and Collin, they're really good friends of mine and I think all the success they've had is great and I'm very happy for them, but I think just like getting put in that group and, you know, everyone talking about like, you know, everything that I could do with the golf ball or all my skills or anything like that and I just felt like there was so much pressure and so much expectation around me that it was just really hard to live up to.

I feel like I call myself a people pleaser because I kind of just like to please everyone. I feel like that's why I love signing autographs and love doing stuff like that because I just want everyone to be happy. I've kind of learned that you can't really make everyone happy. If you have a good attitude, most people don't even care how you play, they just kind of like to see that you're having a good time, and especially the people most important to me. That's kind of all I've been working on.

Q. You mentioned to Rex that you had impacted your other playing partners sometimes with your attitude. Was there a moment when you realized that or what sort of sparked that self-realization?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, absolutely. Just looking back on it, I think it's happened a couple times and I wish I could go back and reverse it and I feel terrible. Like I said, I never want to affect anyone else, and I was obviously affecting myself a lot. But just the fact that I knew that kind of with my shoulders down or anything that I was struggling with, it was -- it's hard to play good when you're playing with someone who's like that. Like I said, I wish I could go back and redo what I did, but the only thing I can do now is from here on forward

just try to do my best to not have that attitude. If I let it affect myself, that's one thing, but if I let it affect someone else, then that's unacceptable.

It's definitely just been learning experiences and growing and maturing a little bit. Like I said, I can't do anything about it now, but I'm just trying to be better for everyone and my peers. Those are the people I respect. I want to be able for them to look at me and not, you know, not want to play with me or something like that. I'm just trying to be better for them and for myself as well.

Q. These changes, have they come internally, reading books, someone helping you? How do you find this new head space?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, it's been a lot of different stuff. I don't really like to read, so audiobooks a little bit more than reading. I think, yeah, just talking with the people that have been closest to me, the ones that have supported me the most.

Kind of knowing and understanding that when people tell me, you know, about how good I am or something like that -- not how good I am, but just like just the support that I have, I kind of turn the support into maybe more pressure, or I don't need to turn it into more pressure because they just want to see me happy at the end of the day. I think just taking what everyone's saying about me but kind of flipping it a little bit. But yeah, probably internally a little bit and just, you know, being happy to be out here. I'm on the PGA Tour, I'm 23 years old. And I know I've struggled, but I know everyone in the world would probably trade places with me, so I need to start learning to enjoy myself and realize how good I have it.

Q. I think audiobooks count as reading these days.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Cool, sweet.

Q. You said that you didn't expect to play well today, but now you have. So what are your expectations for tomorrow and the rest of the week? Do they change?

MATTHEW WOLFF: No, absolutely nothing. I can go out and shoot 90 tomorrow and as long as I have a good attitude, I can put a check mark on this week and say that I've grown as a person and as a player and that's just all I really care about right now.

Yeah, sure, I'm sure I'm going to want -- if I get in a spot where I'm in contention or if I'm by the lead, I'm sure I'm going to feel nerves, but those are the nerves that I like to feel. I don't like to feel the nerves of other people or trying to please people. If you put that on yourself or you're in that situation, that's what we're all out here for and that's what we all love, but at the end of the day I'm not here -- to be honest, it's funny, but I'm not here to win a golf tournament, I'm here to have a good time.

Q. Do you feel that when your attitude is good, that physically you have everything

you need to do what you did today?

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah. I mean, it's been a rough patch, but I've won on the PGA Tour, I know that I can get it done and I know that I have what it takes. I think just allowing me to free up a little bit and not get so down on myself or I'm allowed to make mistakes. I feel like in the past I was telling myself that I needed to be perfect and that's just not the case. No one's perfect, especially in this game. So I'm just trying to go out there and, like I said, just have fun. That's really like literally the only thing that I care about.

Q. Matt, you talked about your growing experiences, your learning experiences. You left college early, earned your Tour card early. Looking back, do you think you would have stayed in college a little bit longer to learn those experiences or are you kind of happy that you kind of got to learn the hard way out here on Tour?

MATTHEW WOLFF: I wish I would have stayed in college a little more just to be in college (Laughs.) Yeah, I definitely think that leaving early, even though I came out with Viktor and Collin, Viktor's pretty old for one grade above me, I think he's two years older than me, and the same with Collin. I just think those -- it's hard because the down times that I've had, I've had to do it in front of everyone whereas in college, I know there's some eyeballs but if you have down times in college or mini tours or Korn Ferry Tours, which is where I'd probably be right now if I hadn't turned pro, it's a little easier to overcome those because you don't feel like you're fully in the spotlight.

I don't regret what I've done. I think everything played out the way it was supposed to and I know I'm going to be better and happier from it because of everything that I went through, but at the end of the day, I'm just trying to be better for my peers and my playing competitors and myself as well.