

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 2, 2022



BILLY HORSCHTEL

HALEY PETERSON: We would like to welcome Billy Horschel to the Wyndham Championship.

Billy, you're going to be making your 10th start here at Sedgefield. What's it like to be back after 2020 finishing runner-up?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: It's a great tournament. I've always enjoyed coming here. I play well on bermuda courses, bermudagrass courses. And maybe early in my career I didn't have the success I thought I should have, but over the last five or six appearances I think I've had some pretty good results here. Haven't crossed the finish line yet as the winner, but hopefully we can take care of it this week. It's just a great -- I say it's a great time of year, it's really hot here but I love coming here. The Greensboro area's really great, the fans come out and support is really well, Mark Brazil and his staff do an unbelievable job of hosting an unbelievable event.

HALEY PETERSON: Making your first start back since Open Championship, seeing you had some time off, you've gone fishing, but what's your game been like entering this week?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: It's not as sharp as I would like it, but knowing what I've got coming up in August and September, it was just one of those things where I had to take time off. I spent five weeks on the road, so had to be home and enjoy family time. I didn't see my kids for a little while, so just hanging out with them. My two girls are into cheerleading, so I'm going to their practices and their private lessons pretty much every afternoon, so I guess I'm a cheer dad now.

HALEY PETERSON: Any cheers you can recite?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: No. I know what a back handspring is, I know what a walkover is. Yeah, my vocabulary's not very good or I don't know enough of it yet, but my girls love it so that's all that matters.

Was out in Aspen for a few days last week doing a charity event I normally do for the junior golfers out there and came home and started practicing on Thursday. Like I said, the game's not bad. It's not as sharp as I would like it, but hopefully we can work our way into a little bit more of a sharper, you know, form by the end of the week.

HALEY PETERSON: What are some of the aspects you're looking to fine tune in your game entering the Playoffs?

BILLY HORSCHEL: I just think ball striking. It's been pretty good all year. Todd Anderson and I have been working hard on just refining a few things, trying to make it a little bit more repetitive. We've worked on the same issues for the last 15 years together, it still just creeps up, so we're just trying to address them and get the right feel so the swing's a little bit more dynamic at the right time.

Other than that, it's in pretty good shape. Just another day of two of hitting balls would have been nice, but like I said, that's just me and my perfectionist side. It's fine where it is, I've just got to get out of my own way and understand that I'm going to play fine this week.

Q. Billy, I know there's an awful lot to play for over the next few weeks, but in particular, could you talk a little bit about the Presidents Cup? I know you've come close to getting into those international cup ones and how much it would mean to you.

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, I think for the last decade now, since I think 2014, close to a decade now, I've had a chance come this time of year to always make a team. You know, when it comes down to it, I just maybe haven't played well in that, you know, summer session to have a chance to make the team automatically or give myself a little better chance. I've had somewhat of an OK finish to end the year or just been too far back and just haven't been picked.

There's a couple things that are missing from what I would love to do in this game of golf and one of those would be to make an international team, a U.S. team, whether that's a Presidents Cup team or Ryder Cup team, I'll take whichever one comes. I think probably the best situation I've been in my entire career to make a team right now, so I've just got to go out there and play really solid golf and I think if I do that, then hopefully I can make my first team, which would be really cool.

Q. (No microphone.)

BILLY HORSCHEL: Davis texted me I think a week or two ago asking what my schedule was and maybe try and get together and have a dinner one night. I think those guys -- I think the guys know me very well, I've been out here for 13 years and I think Davis and Zach and other assistant captains know the type of person I am, know my game very well, know what I can bring to a team and so now it's just, it's my job to play well enough so I can be picked or make the team automatically.

Q. Billy, I feel like this time of year is always very retrospective. You've had an awesome year, a win, a bunch of top-5s. When you think back to everything that's happened between January and now, what are kind of the big things that stand out to you that have allowed you to play this level of golf that's gotten you to such a great position that you just talked about?

BILLY HORSCHEL: I think it's just the hard work that my team and I do on a regular basis.

You know, we made a -- we finally hit on some things with the swing when I came back from -- when I came back from the two Hawaii events. And I felt going into the two Hawaii events I felt we were pretty good with the ball-striking aspect, I thought we had figured out a few things. We went out there and I wasn't as good as I needed to be. So we came back and Todd and I sort of just addressed it again and tried to correct a few things and from there it was sort of, we sort of figured a few things out. Now it's just been subtle tweaks, and when we do get off, we know what we need to go back to.

The answer I always give is I just work so hard and my team and I work so hard, so I can't tell you, hey, it was this one little thing or that little thing. I think it encompasses everything. To be able to play well throughout the year, you're going to have stretches where your ball-striking's not good so your short game and putting's got to be good and when your putting and short game's not going to be good, your ball-striking can sort of carry you a little bit. Then when everything sort of comes together, you sort of play well and you win at Memorial and you have a great week at Memorial.

It's just the process. And I've been out here for 13 years now, I don't try to get too stressed out about things not going well or, you know, about where my game is. I know it's going to come around, I know what I need to do, so I think it's just a little bit more maturity that I have out here.

And I think I'm more or less that guy that for so many years everyone said you sort of start hitting your peak in your 30s and I'm 35, maybe that's what it is for me. I did some good stuff when I was in my 20s, but not like JT or Jordan Spieth or Sam Burns or Scottie Scheffler, so I had to evolve more into a well-rounded player. Hopefully, now I'm 35 and maybe now the next five to seven years I can have the best five to seven years of my career.

Q. You talked about taking your daughters to cheerleading practice. Talk a little bit about the fishing tournament. How did that come about?

BILLY HORSCHER: Yeah. So Cam fishes a lot more than I do. The way we practice golf is completely different. I'm not going to say he doesn't practice hard, but the time he spends is completely different to the time I spend. And then he doesn't have three kids he has to worry about hanging out with and enjoying and going to their activities and school, so my time's a little bit more already taken from that.

But we were at The Open Championship and his caddie, Sam Pinfold, Pinner, was out on the course and I was like, What are you boys doing the next couple weeks? They're like, We're doing a fishing tournament Friday, we're doing the kingfish tournament Friday after The Open.

I said, Going on his boat? They said, Yeah. I said, How many people going? He said, I think there's only six or seven. And I knew his boat had room for more, so I saw Cam the next day. I said, Cam, I've got a question and you're welcome to say no, I said, Can I hop on the boat and go in the kingfish tournament with you? He said, Sure.

Like I said, he's one of my good friends. We see each other a lot, we fly together a lot, we spend a lot of time together when we're home, we have gone fishing before. So that's how it all came about.

We went out just to have an enjoyable day. And listen, I'm an 18 handicap when it comes to fishing. I don't know everything. I've been around fishing my entire life with my uncle and some of my family members, but I'm not as knowledgeable and understanding of a few things as maybe Cam and a couple other guys on the boat were, but I could hold my own.

So we just did a really good job of having fun and we got lucky to catch really two nice kingfish that allowed us to finish in I think fifth or six place in the aggregate, so it was an enjoyable day.

I think Cam just wanted to have a great time, especially after winning The Open Championship, and then afterwards we were just at his house and a lot of friends came over to sort of celebrate his victory for the first time that weekend. Cam, I love the kid to death, he's an unbelievable person and he's got a big heart and I love the guy and I was so thrilled to see him win the tournament. Like I said, that Friday was a day for him to get away from things and enjoy being out on the water with friends and catch a fish or two and that, we did.

HALEY PETERSON: Are the cheerleaders, the whole family out here this week?

BILLY HORSCHER: No, no, they're done traveling for the most part. They may come to TOUR Championship on Sunday depending on my position. School starts next week for them. They got assigned to their teams I think a couple days ago, so they're not able to miss practices.

It's funny to see a 7-year-old and a 5-year-old -- when you sign up for this competitive cheerleading team, you sign a contract that you're going to be at practices, you're not going to miss. Like if you're sick, you're allowed to miss, but you just, you know, they hold you to a contract and I think that's really cool. The kids can't back out, they've got to go do it whether they're tired or not, so it teaches them discipline and responsibility.

But I'm thankful that both my girls love it and they love going and they've got some unbelievable coaches at Infinity there in Jacksonville All Star team. Yeah, it's cool to see them where they've started and where they are now and see them progress in their cheerleading life, early life so far and see how far they go.

I'm just amazed at seeing the other girls and the tricks and the spins and the jumps and everything else they do, I'm amazed by that. It's truly special to see that, something I could never imagine doing and I don't imagine doing it now at 35.

HALEY PETERSON: Learn practice habits from the best, right?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, I'm trying -- you know, my oldest one, Skylar, got her -- what did she do? She did a -- she got her back handspring and then she wanted to do a walkover, a cartwheel into a back handspring. I don't know, the vocabulary still is not there for me yet, but she's got something she was working on and she was really excited about it.

I just said, Hey, listen, as I told you, you've got to work hard and you've got to practice at it, and the last thing on top of it, you've got to believe that you can do what you're working at.

Just trying to teach them a few things. They're listening, or at least I think they're listening. So at least they see me do it, so at least if they're not listening they see what I do on a regular basis or my wife does with what she does at home. Yeah, it's pretty cool to see the kids grow up.

Q. One more Presidents Cup-type question. Was there one Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup that was hardest to miss or that you --

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, I would say the hard one for me was the 2018, the one Jim Furyk captained. Jim's a really good friend of mine. He's been a great mentor, a great friend. Living in Ponte Vedre, I've been able to ask him questions and get some advice from him over my career.

I remember having a Ryder Cup -- he had a Ryder Cup dinner at his house with the 25 guys and wives, I believe, and I sort of said to him, Tabitha and Jim, I said, I really want to make this team.

I can't remember when. That was '18, so I think we were back in March, maybe it was still May, and I didn't play well in the summer, which sucked a little bit, and then I played really well in the Playoffs, I think I finished top-5 at Northern Trust, and unfortunately I got sick at Deutsche Bank and I had to withdraw after nine holes, and I finished third at the -- third at the BMW there at Aronimink and then I finished second at FedExCup.

I knew it was going to be a tough one because Tony had played really well, Xander had played really well and those were two guys that weren't picked yet, I believe. I knew Tiger had just won so he was going to get picked.

So that was a tough one, because I was playing really well at the time, I thought the course fit me really well, but the other guys had played well, had played better for the majority of the year than I had. So I don't fault Jim for the picks, but yeah, that was a tough one because I really wanted to make the team because of Jim.

Q. And what would it mean to you if you got one of the six picks or if you were able to play your way in?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, I love my country, I love the U.S. I think it's a beautiful country. Even though we have issues just like every other country, I think our history has been

unbelievable to see where we've come from and where we are now and the different cultures of people that live in this world and you see the sacrifices that the men and women of the military make for all of us, especially for -- I mean, when I think about it, I get to go play golf around the United States, around the globe and I can be safe and they're giving their lives to protect myself and my family. That means a lot to me.

So to be able to wear the red, white and blue like I have when I was in college and amateur golf was special and it's even more special now to do that at a higher level, a more visible level. So that would be pretty cool to be able to make that team because, like I said, I just love the United States and I think it's one of the greatest countries ever in the history of the world. To be able to wear those colors and play golf and hopefully be victorious in bringing some joy to the United States, you know, and show that we can all get along in different venues and different avenues, I think that's what I love to do.

So if it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't. I'll still survive and I'll get ready to hopefully make the Ryder Cup team the following year.

HALEY PETERSON: That's a great note to end it on. Thank you, Billy, and we wish you the best of luck this week.

BILLY HORSCHER: Thank you.