

WILL ZALATORIS (-7)

Q. Will, good playing today. Just an opening comment on the round, please.

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, I would have liked that tee shot on 2 back, that was a fluke deal, but overall really solid. Made a lot of nice putts, made a lot of nice up-and-downs, and I'll need a pretty low one tomorrow to make a nice run at it, but overall pleased with the direction today.

Q. You talked earlier in the week about how much you like Sedgefield. To find yourself in a position to potentially win here, what does that feel like right now?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, hearing all the Go Deacs and everyone wearing black and gold, it's awesome. I played this place I think since 2010 prior to the redo and I love it here. It's fun being basically the first one off today and having a pretty good crowd following us. Both Rafa and Yannick were asking, hey, did you go to school around here or something like that, just because of the crowds, and so it was a lot of fun.

Q. I know that you've made a change in your caddie. Could you talk a little bit about that? And I guess it felt great having Josh, somebody that you know so well, on your bag today?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, it was the toughest decision I've had to make in my golf career. Ryan's a brother for life. We've kind of had a rough month together and it was starting to affect our relationship. I know guys say that when they split, but it really was. We were guys that we would love to have dinner together and hang out and it started -- what was going on on the course was starting bleed off the course and that's not what you want.

He's an incredible friend, I love him to death and I told him I had to do what's best for me. Like I said, he's just an amazing friend. You know, obviously you can tell how hard this decision was on me, especially the timing of it, but I think it was just getting a little unhealthy for both of us and it was -- obviously it hurts. But going forward, I'll have Joel Stock on the bag through the Playoffs and pretty much going forward from there.

But as you mentioned about Josh, it was great having him read the lies out of the rough. I've got to give him credit for the hole-out on 11 and keeping me in the round today especially after kind of a rough start.

Q. And what's your mindset going into tomorrow?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, just go as low as I can. I would guess that the lead's probably

going to be 13 or 14, maybe even higher, so I'm going to have to put up a pretty low one tomorrow to win this. Pretty good momentum obviously going forward to the next few weeks in the Playoffs.

Q. Will, when you're thinking about having the conversation yesterday, I mean, was that thought process in your mind as you're playing like toward the end of the round? Are you trying to figure out what you're actually going to say to your caddie?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, no, we both kind of sensed it for a little bit. And, you know, nothing's permanent. It's just something that, like I said, he's a brother. I love him to death.

And obviously it was on my mind. I mean, the finish that I had obviously made the day a little bit better, but the frustration between the two of us had just kind of carried over over the last month. Like I said, first and foremost, I love him to death and, you know, he's one of the funniest guys I know and obviously I'll miss his humor over this next bit, but as I said, nothing's permanent.

Q. Hug it out?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, we did, we absolutely did. Like I said, most guys in this, when they kind of release a statement and they say they don't want to ruin a friendship, but this actually was absolutely kind of bleeding into our friendship and I don't want that. He's obviously -- he's basically been my best friend for the last three years. He was my only caddie I had on any sanctioned tour, on the PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour, and so, like I said it's the toughest decision I've had to make in my golf career and I had to do what I think is best going forward. Like I said, nothing's permanent and we'll kind of see how everything goes from here.

Q. What's the compensation plan for this guy back here?

WILL ZALATORIS: We'll figure it out.