
Q. Just wanted to ask you about just what went well today, first off, I guess.

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: Yeah, I mean, I figured the driver out actually yesterday morning on the range. I was struggling a little bit Thursday. You've got to hit a lot of fairways to play well out here and I hit a lot more fairways yesterday. And early this morning starting out birdie-birdie on 2 and 3, it's always nice getting off to a good start.

But I had a couple setbacks. I got up and down for a saved par on 5 and made a really nice par on 6. You kind of feel like some of those holes are potential birdie holes and having safe pars is never fun. But doing that, it is kind of the same at the end of my round yesterday. I saved par on 7 and birdied 8, 9 to make the cut by two.

I've kind of found a little momentum in par saves. I hit a lot of fairways and a lot of greens, but the few I miss, found a lot of momentum with those par saves, which has been nice. And I've really just given myself a lot of chances. I turned at 2 or 3 under and the back nine I had a couple chances, I got up and down again a few times. Actually hit a wedge in the hazard twice and made par once, made bogey the other. But I made some putts coming down the stretch, which is really nice.

Just keeping it in play. I've had very many opportunities to hit greens and I kind of feel like that's the only way you can really play bad out here is missing those fairways and not being able to get on the green. So I've given myself plenty of chances.

Q. What's it like with the Playoffs where obviously you want to win, but even a high finish can do a ton for you?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: Yeah, it's not only for next week, but next year. I know every little spot or every birdie I make really does matter for, you know, if I get in next week that's great, but even for next year I'm going to have opportunities that I wouldn't have. I knew coming in. Last week was tough, my hand wasn't feeling very good so I had to pull out. I knew that if I got a little bit extra rest and really worked hard on getting healthy, I'd have a good chance to play well this week.

Obviously I grew up an hour from here, so somewhat of a local I guess I could say. I've played this course several times. I feel like this is kind of a place for me to play well and I've done it the last three days.

Q. Can you go through the history? You were born in Chattanooga it says, right?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: Yeah. So like at 2 years old I moved to Tupelo, Mississippi, which is north Mississippi about an hour from here. I grew up really staying in Mississippi, but we would come to Memphis a lot. I would fly out of Memphis every time I left home or fly back in to come home. I feel like it's home a little bit. It's closer here than Jackson. Sanderson Farms kind of feels like my home event, but this is actually closer to my house. I had about -- you could hear my crowd this week.

Q. How many people?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: I don't know, probably a good solid 50, like just my people, people that are there for me. And then obviously people come in every hole to make it a little bit bigger.

Q. Elementary school teachers or anybody you haven't seen for a long time?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: I haven't really looked into the crowd. I'm going to go see them here in a little bit. I guess everybody was working the last few days. With the weekend, hopefully they can come out and watch. Just nice for people to kind of see what I've been doing for the last year. I moved away to south Florida so I don't get to come home much and it's nice to have that support close to home.

Q. Since the U.S. Open you've been playing well.

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: Yeah, we missed -- obviously the Sanderson Farms and the Vegas, back to back two top-10s was huge. It was kind of my whole year if you look at it.

I missed six out of seven cuts before the U.S. Open. I remember qualifying for the U.S. Open and saying this is kind of my first good thing that's happened in almost two months. Obviously, you know, didn't play well on Saturday I think at the U.S. Open, but finished 14th or so. Really, that kickstarted the rest of my -- I'm eight for eight on cuts if you count last week. I did pull out, but I'm eight for eight on those last eight events. Some of those I didn't finish well, but I had a lot right around top-25 finishes, 26, 24. No more top-10s, but starting just stacking up these FedExCup points and put myself in a great spot just to get into this week. I wasn't sure in that little 7-week stretch of missing six cuts, I wasn't sure if I was going to be here. I knew being close to home, I wanted to be here. It was a tough two months. I made some changes and I think they paid off.

Q. What were those?

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: I started working with Scott Fawcett. He's kind of a course strategy guy. He does DECADE Golf.

And actually at Colonial I missed the cut and went out with him on Saturday to play golf and just talked to him and kind of dove all into it, and after that good things started happening. I think I'm getting stronger as well. My game's maturing a little bit, my putting's gotten better. I

was really struggling with putting for a while. I made the changes. I think it's a mix of everything, but Scott really helped out a lot.

Q. You mentioned the hand, looked like it's taped up.

HAYDEN BUCKLEY: This wrist is always taped up, it's healthy. It's actually the right hand. I don't know where it came from. I feel like it had something to do with Detroit being really firm and 3M being really firm.

This is also my 30th event of the year, so I think I played a little too much this year. But again, I played well in the fall, got into Bay Hill, got into PLAYERS, got into Phoenix, all these big tournaments that some guys didn't get into. As a rookie, I felt like I had to play.

I feel next year I'll be able to plan out a schedule a little bit better and hopefully not play 30 events just for my body's sake. But it's some minor stuff that's really annoying, just one of those things that your hands and your feet are kind of the two that really annoys you most and I've had issues with both. I've worked hard to be as healthy as possible.