

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
November 1, 2022



BILLY HORSCHTEL

JACK RYAN: We would like to welcome Billy Horschel into the interview room at the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba. Billy's making his eighth start here at the event and he has two top-10s.

Billy, if we can just get an opening comment on returning to a place where you've had success in your career.

BILLY HORSCHTEL: It's a course I've enjoyed coming to for many years. First time was back in February when it used to be opposite the Match Play. Now that it's in November the course is two different styles. It obviously coming out of rainy season this time of year, so the course is a little softer, a little slower compared to February where it was very firm, very fast, And the wind blew more regularly and at a strong rate compared to what sometimes we can get around here this time of year.

But it's a great course, I love coming to this event. The Hotel Fairmont, the Mayakoba entire resort is amazing and I don't think there's many bad things to say about this place. The food's unbelievable. I think every player who has come here at least once has left very happy, maybe not with their golf game because the course is really challenging, but every other aspect checks a box off. It's what we look for on Tour and what we enjoy coming to on a regular basis.

JACK RYAN: This is your second start of the season coming off a T-7 at THE CJ CUP in South Carolina a few weeks ago. How would you assess your game at this point?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: Game's in a really good spot. We've been making movement to try to get better, trying to be more consistent on a regular basis.

Last few years have finally, a lot of the hard work that we've been putting in is finally coming to fruition. I would love to be in contention more, I would love to win more like anybody else, but I'm sort of just taking things, trying to be patient, not trying to push too hard. I think I'm just still trying to keep the momentum going for the rest of this year and build to the next year and hopefully '22 -- actually, my bad, '23 is an even better year.

Getting up there in age and there's a lot more younger guys out on Tour, so it's weird to think I'll be 36 here in month's time and now I'm one of the older guys on Tour and one of the veterans. I said it's 14 years now on Tour and it's gone by very quickly, but I don't think I'm that old. I know I'm not that old, but the body feels a few more aches and pains than some of those 20-year-old times back in the day.



JACK RYAN: You did recently make your 300th career start on that note and it was at the TOUR Championship. So maybe you didn't have the time to reflect on that, but in the past few weeks have you had an opportunity to reflect on that longevity of your career?

BILLY HORSCHEL: You know, like I said, I've been out here for 14 years, I got out here right after college. At that point there wasn't a lot of kids coming out from college and being successful on the PGA TOUR. It took me a few years to find my footing and to get regular, play at a high level on a regular basis.

You know, now I see what all the kids are doing now coming out and the success they're having before the age of 25 is tremendous. I mean, I'm 14 years into my professional career, 300 starts, yeah, I'm more or less looking towards -- to be honest with you, I know there's still a lot of things I want to accomplish in this game of golf and I think I am going to accomplish everything I want to do in this game of golf, but I'm looking forward to that retirement, to tell you the truth.

Q. From our Mexican media, what has been the key to your consistency with your game?

BILLY HORSCHEL: I think over the last two years, I think just the ball-striking has started coming around. I've learned how to be a better -- manage my game better when everything's not working or something's not on.

I think what's the big key is my iron play has gotten better over the last year, which has sort of been the hindrance, you know, for the last couple years.

Then I think the other big key is my short game's gotten really good out here. I think if you look through my stats and my statistics over the 14 years of my career, it has never been a really strong aspect of my game, but I think over the last 18 months it's become very reliable and a really strong part of my game now. It's taken a lot of years to get there, but those two things have allowed me to be more consistent on a regular basis.

Q. And another question that doesn't have a lot to do with golf, actually nothing, we know that you're a soccer fan and in Mexico we're into soccer big time. Will you be watching the World Cup? We now that you have West Ham logo on your bag. Will you be watching the World Cup, and will you be rooting for the U.S. team, and where do you think they're going to finish?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yes, I will be watching all the World Cup.

Actually, I had a trip planned to go to the World Cup in the opening stages, but it just didn't work out. So I'll watch every game. I will -- it's funny, when USA didn't make it in 2018 to the World Cup in Russia, I sort of just put out on Twitter, I said, hey, England, to all my England people that support or watch me, whatever, can I hop on the bandwagon and support you guys?



It's funny, my caddie who caddies for me now, Mark Fulcher, Fooch, he responded back and said, "We would welcome you on our side."

So I pulled for England a lot the last four or five years. I pulled for them in the World Cup, I pulled for them in Euros, I was over in England at the time when they were making their semifinals and the finals run last summer.

So to answer your question, yes, I am pulling for USA, but England will I feel like go further in the World Cup. And so at some point when USA gets knocked out, England will take center stage. I know more of the guys -- I pretty much know everyone on the team whether I've met them or I know who they are than I know anyone on the U.S. side. I think the only one I know on the U.S. side is Christian Pulisic. I haven't met any of the USA players. I know we're a young squad and we're talented.

But yeah, the England side of it is more of the people, the players I know and that match-up with USA-England on Friday after Thanksgiving's going to be an interesting one. I think USA gets out of group stages, but I don't think we make it past maybe one or two more games after that at best. And I think England has a really good chance of making the final of the World Cup. Like I said, I know several guys on the team really well, Declan Rice is a really good friend of mine, so we'll see what happens.

JACK RYAN: Any other questions?

Q. How much fun are you still having playing golf?

BILLY HORSCHER: I still love it. I still have lot of fire in my belly to be great and to see how -- what I can accomplish in this game of golf. I still work hard at this game, but I've done a better job I think over the last two years of getting away from it, enjoying other things in my life, other interests that I have. (Audio disconnection) experiencing them growing up and doing their sporting events.

So I still love it, I still love competing at the highest level. I do remember talking to Tiger a few years ago. I think what we get tired of is just the daily grind of everything. I think we love being in the heat of competition, I think we love when the shotgun goes off on Thursday and we've got to tee it up and start counting, but I think everything that leads up to the week of it to the several weeks at home of practicing and preparing and everything, I think that sort of can get monotonous at some times.

Like I said, I still have a ton of drive in this game of golf and I haven't come close to accomplishing everything I want to do in this game of golf. So until that happens, I'll keep pushing forward.

Q. And along the same lines, you strike me as a goal-oriented person. Do you have a specific set? You mentioned things you haven't accomplished yet that you want to



accomplish. Is that something you keep to yourself or is that something that's out there that we should know or can know that you're after you're looking to still achieve?

BILLY HORSCHER: Yeah, I mean, I don't keep anything, I'm pretty much an open book as you guys know.

Yeah, I would love to get the No. 1 player in the world. I mean, that's a goal of mine, but the bigger goal being I want to become the best player I can be. If that means I get the No. 1 player in the world, I get to No. 1. If that means the best I get to is 4, that's 4., but I just wanted to achieve, you know, my full potential.

I want to make a Ryder Cup team. I've made a team finally, but to sit here and tell you the truth, I want to make a Ryder Cup team. That's always my No. 1 goal. So I still have a few more years to try and make one and hopefully be a part of more than just one.

To tell you the truth, I mean, I want to win all the majors. That's always been a goal of mine. Now, is that realistic? I don't know, but it's a goal. And some people may call me crazy because they may not think I'm good enough, but I don't really care what they think, but it's a goal of mine.

But the bigger goal is I want at least one if not multiple majors on the PGA TOUR before I'm done just so I can say I'm a major championship -- major champion winner, I've won at the biggest stage in the most pressure-packed tournaments.

And then the last goal I think would be getting multiple or double digit wins on the PGA TOUR. I think today in our age of golf and the generation we're at and on the PGA TOUR, I think if you can say you won 10-plus times on the PGA TOUR, you've had one hell of a career. You're not going to see many guys get to 20 wins anymore on the PGA TOUR. You will see Justin Thomas, Rory McIlroy's always there, maybe Jordan Spieth gets there, but you're not going to see a lot of guys get to 20 wins anymore the way it was back when. It's a tough thing to do in our era of golf. But to say that I have 10-plus wins on the PGA TOUR, that's a big goal.

Summarize, 10-plus wins on the PGA TOUR, win at least one major, make the Ryder Cup team and maybe get the No. 1 player in the world. Those four goals, that's it.

Q. That's fantastic, it's like you knew the question was coming.

Q. Billy, I know you've played here a lot and you've had some good finishes here. The schedule's changing in a couple years and the fall events are kind of in limbo. Can you speak to sort of this event and how important it would be to try to keep it in play in some fashion?

BILLY HORSCHER: I love this event. Coming here first time in 2010, I had to withdraw in



2010, but since I've been here it's been an unbelievable golf course. The Mayakoba Resort hosts us very well. I think all the hotels here -- Fairmont, Rosewind, Andaz, Banyan Tree -- have done an unbelievable job over the 14 years of my pro career in really stepping up the game and making improvements. The food every year seems to get better, the accommodations seem to get better. I think Joe and his staff do an unbelievable job of running an event. I'm very big fans of Joe and Taylor Ives and that group.

Then the people here love the game of golf. I love when I play in front of people that have passion, and the Mexican people, you know they have passion, it's in their culture.

So yeah, it would be sad if we leave this place or this tournament isn't on the schedule in the future. I can't speak to if it is or isn't going to be. I know there's a lot of rumors going out there with a lot of other things and I don't know what is truthful and what isn't, but this would be one that I would love to somehow keep on the schedule if we're somehow able to because I think everyone raves about it. There's not many complaints about this place. I don't know what they are, and I don't know if I've ever heard a complaint about it. Maybe it rains too much when we come out of rainy season, but that's just the way it is down here.

Like I said, yeah, it would be sad if this event isn't somewhere on the schedule in the future.

JACK RYAN: Billy, thank you very much for your time and good luck this week.

BILLY HORSCHER: Thank you.

