

THE PANAMA CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

February 5, 2023



PIERCESON COODY (-3, won 1st playoff hole)

Q. All right, 14th start on the Korn Ferry Tour, second win, how are you feeling right now?

PIERCESON COODY: It feels fake. I had surgery in the offseason and missed the two cuts, so to say I wasn't very high on my game would be an understatement. I had a great second round, got me -- felt like I got myself back in the tournament, and from there things just kind of kept going my way. And this final round was awesome. I did a lot of things really well and made some putts down the stretch that just gave me this chance to get into a playoff. And luckily I hit one of the best shots of my career to whatever, six inches, a foot, to win and I just couldn't be happier.

Q. You had about three hours to kill. I remember you saying you think 4's going to be the number. Can you just take us through the last few hours of waiting and waiting?

PIERCESON COODY: It honestly wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, it went really fast. You're refreshing the leaderboard, you're putting, you're hitting balls, but once it was time to get in the playoff, like all that kind of anxious feel went away and I was just happy to be playing golf again, happy to be in contention. Just happy things went my way.

Q. You played the last 27 holes at 6 under.

PIERCESON COODY: Yeah.

Q. The course has been challenging everyone all week. Was there ever a point where you told yourself, yeah, I can really actually come back and do this?

PIERCESON COODY: It's really funny, my caddie and I with 27 holes to go, I had shot 2 or 3 over on the front nine that day and we knew that the scores would be like this, they would come back, they would stay right around 3, 4, 5 under par. So the mentality was to get to 5 under par in the next 27 holes, and luckily 3 was close enough to get into a playoff.

Q. How does this win compare to your one in Maine last year?

PIERCESON COODY: This one's really sweet. Maine was -- Maine was incredible to get the first pro win. I don't want to say it felt easy, but it was almost like an out-of-body experience the way I started and it just was kind of cruising in on the back nine.



This the whole time I was chasing. I was hoping things would go my way and luckily I did and this is just a lot sweeter. Like I said, having just a down offseason, not being able to play much golf and then coming out here and seeing that my golf game's still good enough was awesome.

Q. You mentioned your injury earlier. With the win last year, you didn't play a ton of events, but you still were close to getting your card. And then during Q-School that didn't -- the injury was still there.

PIERCESON COODY: Right.

Q. How stressful was that going through that and how has the recovery been heading into this season?

PIERCESON COODY: The recovery's -- it was stressful, yeah. It was really stressful not being able to play much golf until early December. And then being kind of thrust into the season in the Bahamas and things just go so fast, it's already three weeks traveling, playing the Korn Ferry. I can't imagine how fast this season's going to feel. Everything snowballs.

And injury, so many guys had injuries and so many guys have bounced back, but until you actually do bounce back, you always kind of doubt it in the back of your head and I'm so happy I bounced back.

Q. The regulation play, was it a little excited or --

PIERCESON COODY: That seven-, eight-foot putt in regulation, it should go left to right, it should break at least a ball or two to the right, but it's blowing 25 and these greens are so fast that the wind just had control of the golf ball. Unfortunately it missed to the left, but I was still happy with the putt. I hit it right where I wanted to. It was a little bit of a misread and things worked out.

Q. And then you get to redeem yourself. First, explain how far was the approach in the playoff and just the feeling when it was in the air. Did you think it would be that --

PIERCESON COODY: Yeah, I hit a great tee shot. A little juiced to get all the way down there up against the water. Had 126 out and about 110 to get onto the green. So my caddie and I were trying to land it about eight or nine paces short and that's just a perfect full lob wedge for me, about a 105 shot. Just happy it panned out the way it did.

Q. What is that feeling standing over the putt? Is it the shortest or the longest like one-footer of your life? The whole emotion when you're watching them putt?

PIERCESON COODY: It's hard to stay calm because when you're that close to the hole, your mind races, it races really fast. It was like what does this mean? Because you know you're not going to miss a one-foot putt, but with that mentality, they could have easily made



a putt and we could have been going to another hole. So I was fighting myself just trying to just focus on my putt, not care too much about their putts even though harder to -- it's really hard to do that in the moment, but just trying to just focus on hitting that one-foot putt solid.

