

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
May 2, 2023

QUINN RILEY



JACK RYAN: We would like to welcome Quinn Riley into the interview room here at the Wells Fargo Championship. Quinn is competing this week on a sponsor exemption and this is his third career start on the PGA TOUR.

Quinn, I know this is an exciting opportunity for you. If we can just get an opening comment on what it means to be competing here at the Wells Fargo Championship.

QUINN RILEY: Absolutely. I just want to start by thanking Wells Fargo for giving me this opportunity. Being hometown, close to home, being able to have family out here means the world to me.

JACK RYAN: And I know you're a product of The First Tee, so as you've progressed through your golf career, how cool is it to be getting these starts on the PGA TOUR knowing you're coming from The First Tee?

QUINN RILEY: Yeah, all the opportunities started with The First Tee for me in golf. Kind of coming full circle, being able to work with Wells Fargo and seeing what they do with The First Tee and just creating more opportunities for young golfers like myself, it's awesome.

Q. Quinn, what's your experience level with Quail Hollow Club and what do you know from watching this tournament and hearing about it, hearing from other players about it?

QUINN RILEY: I've actually never played here before, so this is all new to me, but I did watch reruns of Tiger in '07 tearing this place up. So I'm not spinning it back out of the rough like he was, but it's definitely challenging and it's cool to see.

Q. What have you learned in seeing the PGA TOUR up close, because you've done it a couple times now, and what is sort of the next step for you, so to speak, to really be able to get it done out here and play on the weekend?

QUINN RILEY: Well, first of all, main thing is that I realize that I'm not that far off, and secondly, like all the guys out here are pretty much doing the same thing, controlling their ball, being strategic around the course. Yeah, main thing is just the experience I've gotten, learning that I'm not far off and I know kind of what I need to work on.

Q. How do you feel about Weedwackers?

QUINN RILEY: They're loud, they're loud and makes it hard to do this.



Q. Real question, can you just give a little bit about your background, where you're from, how you got into golf and maybe your journey to where you are now?

QUINN RILEY: Yeah, I was born in Minnesota, but I've lived in Raleigh my whole life pretty much. I grew up North Raleigh, played at Wildwood, those are my stomping grounds. Moved over to Lonnie Poole when I was about 15 and just been playing there. Got an opportunity to play at Duke four years, graduated, turned pro and have had a great time as a pro so far with a lot of amazing opportunities.

Q. How do you feel about John Scheyer?

QUINN RILEY: John Scheyer? I fell out of love, like I don't know, after my freshman year with Zion and R.J. and Cam, like it didn't really mean much to me after that, but I haven't really kept up with it.

Q. You mentioned Tiger Woods a while ago. Is there any golfers that you model your game after and is Tiger one of those guys?

QUINN RILEY: Yeah, just I think everyone kind of models themselves after Tiger, just the way he moves around and handles his business and being efficient and not expending a whole lot of energy. I think that's kind of what I try to go after. Obviously no one's going to emulate his game, but that's the biggest takeaway for me just watching him do his thing.

Q. Quinn, where do you see your role, position as someone who could help grow the game in terms of diversity and where do you see the sport is right now in terms of DI?

QUINN RILEY: I think there's some work to be done. I definitely know kind of the role I play and I'm trying to make the game look different at this level. I'm also trying to represent all the people who support me well.

You know, all that in mind, I don't really have a role model that I look up to, I just try to be my best self. I know I have a lot of kids who look like me looking up to me.

Q. I was going to ask you about Marcus. Obviously he's a little under the weather, but what's your relationship with him, how well do you know him, and to be here with him on an exemption, how cool is that?

QUINN RILEY: Yeah, it's awesome being here with him. We've played a few times. I respect him a lot as a competitor. We haven't really hung out too much off the golf course, but he's fun to be around and I hope he starts feeling better and is ready for Thursday.

Q. You mentioned seeing up close that you're really not that far off, that you do the same things that these other guys do. Can you sort of be more specific about like a specific player that you saw like, OK, I played against that guy, I beat him in college or



whatever? Was there anyone in particular?

QUINN RILEY: Well, there was some guys that graduated from my class who are doing quite well on Korn Ferry. You know, I just played two holes with Max Homa and watching him hit the ball and just go about how he structures his practice and prepares, it's stuff that I'm kind of used to doing already.

I watch great players, they're very consistent and they have a lot of control over their ball and they just try to limit their mistakes and put it in good spots. All that isn't really technical, it's pretty much just strategic and time efficiency.

Q. Fair to say that you're completely over the awe factor, like you have no awe factor at all?

QUINN RILEY: The what?

Q. You're not in awe of anything you see out here?

QUINN RILEY: Walking around here it's pretty normal until you bump into somebody that you're like, OK, I've only seen you on TV winning golf tournaments. Everything feels pretty normal when I'm walking around here until something like that happens, but they're just normal people at the end of the day when they don't have a club in their hands.

Q. I wanted to ask about the role that mental health and mental strength play in your success as a golfer. Can you talk a little bit about kind of building that muscle and if there's anything you do off the course to kind of work through the mental side of the game?

QUINN RILEY: Yeah, I think that's hugely important. Mental health for me going through college, it was tough just being on a golf team. It's -- college golf structure is completely different than amateur golf and not knowing when you're going to play and you have to beat your teammate to have a spot and a chance. So dealing with that was tough, but I think it exercised that muscle a little bit, trying to build a little toughness.

I have a therapist that I work with off the course and it's more about just life stuff because I think a lot of life stuff bleeds into how you play, just your performances. So that's been huge for me just having someone I can talk to and run my thoughts past and listen to me.

That's one thing that I see, I'll be honest here, I think being on the APGA I see a lot of those players struggle with that aspect just because we deal with a lot even when we go to play in those events. I see that bleed into their golf a lot more and it just makes almost like you're trying to beat yourself up on the course and getting out of your own way. That's probably what I've seen the most out there. But I think once you get the hang of that and you have that straightened out, it makes performing out here at bigger stages a lot easier.



JACK RYAN: All right. I think those are all the questions we have. Thank you very much for your time, Quinn, and best of luck this week.

QUINN RILEY: Thank you.

