

AdventHealth Championship

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

May 21, 2023

GRAYSON MURRAY (-19)



Q. Grayson, six years since your last win, back in the winner's circle. Talk us through your emotions right now if it's sunk in.

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, it really hasn't sunk in, but yeah, I mean, six years is a long drought, far longer than I wanted. Jason Day just won last week and he had think a five-year drought. Sometimes your highs are high out here and your lows are low.

I heard a quote from one of the players, I think it might have been Justin Thomas, it's like one day you feel like you're -- nothing can go wrong, you're playing your best, you can't lose, and then all of a sudden you lose it and now you feel like you can't even make a cut. That's kind of how golf is. It's a very humbling sport. I've been working really hard and this is a testament to the hard work, for sure.

Q. You mentioned during the trophy presentation how much this means not just for yourself but also the support system, family, friends. Can you elaborate a little bit on that and how special it is for everyone?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, my parents have been through, you know, hell and back basically for the last six years with me fighting some mental stuff. It's not easy on me, and the people around me that love me, they don't like to see me down. They've been my No. 1 supporters. There's a few friends as well that have been there as well and it makes these moments a lot more special when you can share it with them.

Q. Resiliency off the course clearly, but then also on the course today on that final hole. Take us through the nerves after that first drive.

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, it was really the worst shot, I mean definitely the worst shot of the week. I pulled it and hit a tree and it ended up out of bounds. I gathered myself, hit another drive in the rough.

It's never easy to win. If you start off on the first hole with a double or end it with a double, 72 holes you've got to play. That's what we did this week and it came down to that last putt. Couldn't be more happy.

Q. A win obviously helps your odds significantly of returning to the PGA TOUR. Can you talk through how much that means and how impactful this is for the rest of your season?



GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, I have status on both tours right now. It's going to be interesting to see what I focus on because I think maybe my best chance would be maybe to just stay out here and play on this tour since there's 30 cards given this year instead of 25. But we'll see, I'm going to enjoy this one first. But I like my position right now more than I came into the week, that's for sure.

Q. Grayson, you mentioned six years and working hard on yourself off the golf course but on the golf course as well. When was the moment you knew, OK, I can do this and this is going to happen for me?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Not till just a few weeks ago. I really recommitted myself. I fell back into some old habits recently. I'm 29 years old and I'm not getting younger, and all these kids that are coming out to college are studs and are ready to win and are winning. Even though I'm not old, I feel old compared to some of these kids out here now.

I'm rededicating myself in the gym and doing a lot of just mental stuff to really ease my mind out here. I felt so calm this week, it was probably the calmest I felt on the golf course in a long time. I struggle with anxiety and that's a very tough thing to do when you're playing golf is to go through anxiety. Just knowing that I'm not alone with that and embrace it. It's never going to be a walk in the park and every day's a new challenges.

Q. You've been so close out here not just once but twice and it can be almost that frustrating point of, man, like is this ever going to happen for me on this golf course. Just the emotions of teeing off in that final round knowing you've been here before in this position?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, you know, two-shot lead or two shots back was not even -- never crossed my mind that that was not something I couldn't catch him early. He played great today as well and we had a good fight out there. Yeah, I mean, it's one of those things, even though it has been six years, you can still fall back on some of those times that you've learned and know that you've done it and that can give you confidence.

Q. Specifically to the last putt, you're talking about all that you've gone through, all the ups and downs. I'm sure something you had to go through, especially looking at the scoreboard right there knowing what has happened, what the situation is. What's going through your mind on that putt to make sure you execute it perfectly?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, my caddie, Kip, was really good to me all week on the greens just telling me to hit a pure putt. That's all you can do, all you can do is hit it on your line. We read it, we try to execute it just like we do a drive or an iron shot. Sometimes they don't go in, but there's never a doubt I knew I was going to make that last putt.

Q. You finished second here before. Is there anything about this course that you really like? Does it fit a longer driver?



GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, so when I finished second it was at LionsGate., I finished fourth here last year on this course. But I grew up with a tree-lined type golf course, so that -- it really fits my eye when I see trees kind of lining the fairways. The rough out here, I mean, I hit a lot of fairways, which was key. I think this course rewards good shots, but if you get out of trouble, you're staring down bogey and that's what I like about this place. It rewards -- it rewards the good shots and it can penalize you for sure if you're a little errant off your drives or iron shots.

Q. What was the week like overall for you coming in and how it went?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, you know, this is the first week that Kip and I worked together. I've known him forever. I missed the cut by two last week in Dallas at the Byron Nelson and I bogeyed the last two holes and I was a little upset, but I went home and just kind of regrouped for a couple days, came here and just worked hard, put my head down the first -- you know, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and I felt like I was in a good spot come Thursday.

Yeah, it's a marathon. Very rarely does the first-round leader kind of win the golf tournament. It's hard to sustain four straight rounds in the lead. So I just kept telling myself that if I could control -- I'm the horse that I can control, I can't control the other horses in the race.

Q. It sounds like you've dealt with some anxiety and pulled through here. Like what advice would you have to people dealing with that?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, that's a -- that's a tough one because, you know, like I said in my speech over there, I think everyone has their own battles that everyone -- you know, everyone has their battles. Sometimes people are able to hide 'em and function and sometimes you're not.

You know, I think our society now is getting better about accepting that, you know, it's OK to not be OK type deal. I've embraced that type of mentality. Not ashamed that I go through depression, anxiety. I know I've helped people out in the past just through my social media DMs, people messenger me and that's I think part of I can use my platform to continue to help with things like that.

