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ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

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RICO HOEY



Q. Rico, you are officially a Korn Ferry champion. The emotion, just kind of walk me through what that emotion comes from and how it feels.

RICO HOEY: Yeah, I'm just ecstatic. I mean, there was a lot of hard work. Everyone works hard. And I have battled through things for myself, and I'm just really happy to get it done. And I never thought the day would come. But a lot of people told me it would, so --

Q. You have been knocking on the door for a while, some top-10s this season. And you were number four coming into the week without a win and now you just got a win. So how does that feel to kind of lock up the win today?

RICO HOEY: It feels great. Seeing the guys above me, they have won, and then one not. And it just felt like, being number four on the points list, you needed a win. So I had a great start to the season and I'm just really happy to win.

Q. Walk us through the emotion on 18. I want to hear from tee to green everything that kind of happened here.

RICO HOEY: I was nervous. I mean, I hit my drive in the rough over there, and a -- had a 4-iron in, and hit it to the bunker right here. And Logan and I were just saying like maybe I'll just come off the slope here, and it didn't. But it was a great bunker shot. I was just happy I didn't blade it over or something. But yeah, I had a 15-footer down the hill and I just told myself, it's time, let's do it. And I hit the putt and it went in, and just went nuts. I don't remember after that. Yeah, pointing at people.

Q. If you can describe that feeling of seeing that putt drop. I mean, can you kind of walk us through how that feels, for people that haven't got to experience that?

RICO HOEY: It's amazing. I hopefully can describe it as well as I can. But it was just like your heart's racing. You can't think straight. Your head's like all over the place. I couldn't control my hands. But I just told myself, just hit it down the line and see what happens. And it was in the fairway, so I had to make a birdie, hopefully force the playoff or something. So it might have went in and -- just really happy.

Q. How does it feel to know that you are just one step closer to the PGA Tour?



RICO HOEY: It's a dream come true. I mean, this is what we all work for. And I'm really enjoying it. I'm really happy to be out here and to have a chance to get on the PGA Tour, I'm just really excited. So let's see what the future is in store, and I'm just going to keep doing my best.

Q. Yeah, go back to Q-School last year, you were questioning if you were going to play a couple years ago.

RICO HOEY: Yes.

Q. And then to here -- just kind of walk us through those decisions to continue playing and how it was back to Q-School and all paid off, so --

RICO HOEY: Yeah, I remember always joking around with my girlfriend saying, like, I'm going to fire up the LinkedIn. And she's like, you won't. And I still have it, and I'm like -- you know -- so glad everyone talked me out of that. And I have some things falling on me, on my family, my girlfriend Megan, my coach Ross, always there. And just everyone all around me. And they pushed me to be here, so I'm -- Q-School is tough, but got through that and I was just -- yeah, I'm just happy, just really happy.

Q. Would you say today is kind of the pinnacle of your golf career, like so far? I mean the best day in your career so far?

RICO HOEY: Yeah. I would say -- yeah, that's pretty safe. Yeah, I just -- winning any kind of like Korn Ferry Tour event or any PGA Tour-sanctioned event is really hard. I won in Canada, and I thought about it, it was like the only one I'll ever get out here. But, yeah, just -- just really -- it's just really cool, being a Korn Ferry Tour winner.

Q. Getting that checked off the list at this point in the season, what do your goals look like for the remainder of the season?

RICO HOEY: Just keep going. I mean, these guys are really good out here, and I know everyone's out to get one another, in a good way. Everyone pushes one another. So I just want to keep doing my part to push them as well as them push me, so I just want to keep getting better.

Q. What do you think it was the key to getting you to here this week? You played well other weeks, but what do you think was the key to crowning you champion this week?

RICO HOEY: Just staying patient. Last week, I played really well and I just felt like things were starting to line up a little bit, but I -- it's hard to keep looking into the future when you're like, oh, I should be winning, or, I think I could do really well this week. And I just told myself all I want to do is just shoot in the 60s and things will take care of itself. So I didn't mind a bit.



Q. Where does the main part of that emotion that you showed earlier come from? Is that pride? Is it excitement? Or where do you pull that from?

RICO HOEY: I think just a mix of everything. A lot of like hardships and a lot of like enjoyment. So it's a lot of mixed emotions, but it's great. I think it's not a win for myself, it's a win for everybody, so yeah.

Q. Do you remember last playing the 72nd hole putt to win a tournament? Do you remember when that might have been?

RICO HOEY: It's been a long time. Maybe to force a playoff, that was like the Mini Tour event in Colorado, the Colorado Open, but I missed that pretty -- I didn't even sniff the hole, so -- but now, this is probably my first time in a long, long time, so glad to have done it.

Q. I'm trying to remember -- the Junior World, when you beat --

RICO HOEY: Oh.

Q. -- with a birdie.

RICO HOEY: Yeah, I birdied the last, but yeah, I think -- I can't even remember, it's been so long, but yeah, maybe I had like a four-footer or five-footer.

But this tops off everything. I mean, this is a tough putt, downhill, and sliding a little bit. So it was awesome.

Q. And then what was the most important of the 14 clubs this week? Why did you win? Which club in the bag?

RICO HOEY: All 14. They were great. They treated me nicely. No, the driver, TaylorMade, did a great job. I was driving it well this week. It felt -- hit the 3-wood great. And my wedges were great. I switched to some of these -- one of the older irons, but, I mean, man, it's been working well. So all of it. The ball, everything, so -- yeah, TP5X.

