

**THE ASCENDANT**  
Presented by Blue

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
July 16, 2023

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM ( 20)**

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**Q. Nick, the feelings right now, winning for the first time in six years, what's this like for you?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Satisfying. A lot of hard work. I mean, we all do it, but I've taken a lot of time away from golf with my injury to be with my family and I think that's really put me in a good place mentally. Just when I've played, I'm excited to be out here instead of just going week in and week out, you know, repetition, so I think that's really paid dividends.

**Q. Had you won anything since your last Korn Ferry event?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I mean, like some local stuff, the Grapefruit Open in Vero Beach. I've been playing well, it's a matter of making putts. I really haven't been a great putter the last few years, but I've also figured out how to hit my golf ball better and that's -- you've got to make putts to win.

**Q. What does it mean to you to kind of be putting, maybe putting this in the rearview mirror and going back to the top level?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I know I can play well at the biggest stage. The crowds out here this week are as big as a Tour event. That's probably one of my biggest things is the crowds and dealing with the pressure and just knowing that I can get it done.

**Q. Was there a moment today you felt like you really took hold of the tournament, realized you were out in front?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** You know, I usually am a leaderboard watcher, but I knew I was playing well and I saw Alejandro was at 19 after -- I was just finishing 8. So after I saw that, I was like, all right, well, I'm just going to try to plug in and try to finish strong and see what happens. Two shots seems like a lot, but it's really not.

And then the only time I looked at the leaderboard behind us here was after I hit my putt up to eight inches and realized I had a two-shot lead and I stopped breathing.

**Q. Three shots there.**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I won by three? OK, well, three-shot lead.



**Q. Like you looked at it here?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I looked at it after I hit my putt to eight inches, yeah. I mean, usually I'll look at leaderboards all day long, just how my brain works, but I didn't -- it wasn't like I did it on purpose. Some guys don't look at them. I just knew if I just kept my head down, see what happens.

**Q. This is your third win on the Korn Ferry Tour. How do you compare these as opposed to the first two?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I think 38 years old, you know, any other sport, that's pretty old. So it's satisfying to know that I still have good golf ahead of me. You do a lot of questioning in this game even when you are at the top of your game. I think with that being said, I feel like I've still got some more gas in the tank.

**Q. How do Adirondack chairs rate as unique trophies?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Super cool, super cool. We've got a nice backyard with a pool and we're always back there, so that's going to sit really nice back there, yeah.

**Q. So when you were hurt with your back injury, right?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Still do, yep.

**Q. How far away did this moment seem when you were down with your back injury?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Well, I was in Bermuda and I couldn't even walk so I thought I was going to need surgery for sure. With the help of my physical therapist and just really staying off of it was probably the most helpful thing. Yeah, you just never know, you never know. When I took four months off from not playing at all, it's just, you can't ever predict the future.

**Q. You've mentioned your family. As a dad and husband, your family saw you not at your worst but really facing injury and trying to battle back and come back. Now for them to watch you win, what does that mean to you to show them I'm back?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** That's like what it's all about really. I know that we want to do it -- I want to do it for other people more than myself. I know that may not sound true, but it is. I mean, my kids and my family are the world to me. They put up a lot of fights and I just want to love them that much more. So this is really for them.

And my caddie, me and Matt have been working together for about eight months now. He's been there for me anytime I need him, and he's been caddying for other people. He's just been a really, really good, solid guy for me that I enjoy being around. It's been great.



**Q. And your little girl mentioned on the phone --**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** (Laughs.)

**Q. What does that mean to have --**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** She loves the spotlight, we'll just say that much. It's great. When I was walking up 18 after I hit my tee shot, I'm like, all right, I'm in good position. I didn't tear up, but I was just like I was emotional for the sake that I am so lucky to do this. Yeah, it's pretty amazing.

**Q. When you said at Bermuda, were you talking about this year at Bermuda?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** It was in the fall, yeah. I don't know if you know what happened to Grayson Murray, but he walked out of there with like 90 stitches, he fell on a moped. They call it a Bermuda tattoo. So I was walking out hobbling and he looked like a mummy. It was pretty rough, but he was in much worse shape than me.

**Q. You set the tournament record here by three strokes. What was the key to scoring well on a pretty tough course?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I think it played a little softer on the greens than it has in past years. We played in really nice weather. I remember in past years we played in a little bit more wind. Granted, it's blowing a little bit, but not like it has before. I think those two things make a big difference.

**Q. How underrated is confidence now, because you have the confidence of winning now, especially going into next week?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Yeah, I mean, I still am in shock. It will take me a couple days to unwind. Could you ask the question again?

**Q. How about confidence, though, because it seems like an underrated thing --**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Totally.

**Q. -- because you can tell yourself you're playing well, but now you have a trophy to show it.**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Yeah. So I've played four medical starts, three top-10s, one a 27th finish in Raleigh, so I knew I had been playing well. But when you take time off in between, because like my back would be sore and I didn't want to like jump into two weeks in a row, it was hard to assess my game because I wasn't playing week in and week out. But at home, yeah, I can play well at home, but putting it under the gun, it's satisfying.



**Q. Do you want to take a bite before it completely melts away?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** I don't know.

**Q. What do you think of that TPC course?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** It's amazing. The views are unbelievable. The golf course, it gives you a little bit of room off the tee. I usually drive it pretty straight so I didn't really think that that was, I guess, an advantage towards me. But my ball-striking's been pretty good and the greens get firm so playing a little bit more strategy-based golf instead of just firing at every flag, I think that paid dividends at the end.

**Q. How many starts do you have on your medical?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** That's yet to be determined. It all depends on the average of events played by members and yadda, yadda, yadda, and how many I played to finish the year.

**Q. From what you said yesterday, you're basically, you're good to go for the rest of this season and next season?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Depending on what I get in on my number. I'll get into Reno, I'll get into 3M, and then I should get into Wyndham. Then they have a break and then I might get into Napa. I'll play the Fall Series, whatever I get into. So I'm at the bottom of the reshuffle list, so I've got to play well.

**Q. And next year?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** And then next year I will get some starts based on however many events I missed.

**Q. I was standing with you when you got a quick phone call there from your family, but I mean, if they were here, if you get to talk to them, what do you want to say to them? Just your kind of, your victory moment, is there anything you would say to them?**

**NICHOLAS LINDHEIM:** Just thank you, thank you and I love you, yeah.

