

SIMMONS BANK OPEN FOR THE SNEDEKER FOUNDATION

ROUND 4 QUOTES
September 17, 2023

GRAYSON MURRAY (-17)



Q. You're officially headed back to the PGA TOUR. Let's just start there. How does that feel?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, amazing. To start the year, you know, a lot of uncertainties, right? This is what we live for. I didn't see myself in this position, but you can always work hard and follow your goals and that's what I did. You know, it came to fruition. Yeah, it's just a testament of a lot of hard work.

Q. What's more exciting right now, this win or to head back to the PGA TOUR?

GRAYSON MURRAY: This win. Yeah, from being a past champion on the PGA TOUR, I've always had a little bit of status, but this win right now, I'm going to enjoy this one, for sure. I didn't come into this event thinking about my PGA TOUR card on the line, I just came in here focused on doing what I could with what I could control. The lowest guy, the lowest score always wins and that stays true.

Q. Starting the day a couple groups back of those leaders, at what point were you like, OK, this could be mine to take home?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, you know, it started off really hard with the wind. I think those first five or six holes, I played them 1 over and didn't really feel like I hit many bad shots. I stayed patient and I didn't look at a leaderboard all day. I asked my caddie I think with five holes to go if I made three birdies, would it be good enough, and he said they'd have to play pretty good to catch you, and I ended up making four.

I think that was kind of my mindset going in was to not look at scoreboards today just because it was so bunched up. Yeah, it served me well.

Q. A lot of crucial birdies there at the end, big one here, roar on 18. Which of those was your favorite and meant the most for today's win?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, you know, 17 was a really good one just because how hard that hole is. I felt like birdieing 17, I looked at the board actually on 17 and I had a one-shot lead there. To have a two-shot lead going into the last hole, I had that same lead in Kansas City and we made it interesting. I kind of played this hole smart. I made a nice putt here on 18, which is always fun to do.



Q. Locked up the Tour card, still two events to go. What's the goal and mindset for those next two events?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, I think the goal is to show up next week, be prepared and go out and take care of business.

There's no letting the pedal -- you know, I think the pedal still needs to be down. I think you can't let your guard down in this game ever. You've got to ride it while you're hot and that's what I'm going to try to do.

Q. You FaceTimed your parents there at the end, they were just so proud of you. Can you kind of tell us what they were saying and how much it meant to them to share the moment with them?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, I think they looked at flights to come here and I guess they didn't pull the trigger. I told them that I would win in front of them soon, and I believe it. They're my biggest supporters. Whether I lose or win, they're going to love me just as much and that's crucial to have people like that in your circle. It takes a lot of pressure off you, for sure.

Q. He made a comment something along the lines of it's not the win, it's who you are that makes it successful. How much does it mean to hear your parents tell you that?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, you always want to make your parents proud. I think we all want to, you know, live vicarious through them and hopefully they raised us right, and they have for me. There's been moments in my career where I probably let them down. I was still always their son and they loved me through the bad times.

To act like a professional and to not even win this tournament, but to just act like a professional I think makes them proud. I can look in the mirror tonight and be proud of myself for how I behaved out there under the gun and under pressure situations.

Q. At the beginning of this year if you had told yourself, hey, you're going to get two wins, headed to the PGA TOUR two events to go, just what would you have thought and, I don't know, just reacted to that news?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, when I won in Kansas City, that was the first win in six years. It's tough to win on any tour in the world, it's very tough to win. There's very few guys that seem to win more than others and that's what makes them elite.

We play a sport where we lose more than we win, but it's the losses that you learn from and get better at. Like I said, I want to soak this win in as much as possible, but I want to get back to business as well because this feeling is unlike anything other.



Q. On Golf Channel you mentioned that this is the calmest you felt for a win. Talk about why that is and where does that come from.

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, I met with a mental coach last week. We had two weeks off obviously from Boise and I went to Florida, didn't touch a club for like nine days, just kind of took a hard reset.

My coach back home, my instructor, knew this guy out in San Diego and thought it would be good for me. My dad thought it would be good for me. So I hopped on a plane from Florida and went straight there, and it was a two-night trip. It was an exhausting trip, but obviously I got a big return on my investment just in one week.

If I can handle myself like this going forward every week, and I'm not going to be perfect, but if I can do as good of a job as I can, then I think I can be an elite player.

Q. What did you learn when you went and did the training?

GRAYSON MURRAY: There was a lot. I didn't take everything from it, I took just bits and pieces from it. I had a ball marker made this week. There's a company out here making ball markers and I had S-O-P and W-I-N stamped on it, which was "succeed on purpose" and "what's important now." I just kept looking at that ball marker and it never got me looking ahead, it kept me in the moment.

We're lucky we play a game for a living and it's not the end of the world and, you know, everyone always talks about perspective, but it really is perspective.

Q. Has there ever been a time in your career where your mind has maybe let you down?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Oh, absolutely. I've been -- if my game is a 9/10, my mental game is a 1/10 for my whole career really. That's what's kept me from being the player that I could have been. Coming off of this tour back in 2016 being a rookie, sheer talent got kind of -- I got away with it for a little while. I turn 30 in less than a month and I just kind of had a hard talk to myself and realized that I'm getting a second chance. Luckily, we play a game where we can have careers into our 50s, so 30 is still young. I feel like I have a lot of good golf ahead of me.

Q. And who is your instructor?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Ted Kiegiel back home in Raleigh, in Raleigh where -- Carolina Country Club. Webb Simpson grew up taking lessons from him. I've been working with him since I was 9 years old.

Q. And the guy, the Navy SEAL you worked with, what was his name?



GRAYSON MURRAY: Tony Blauer. He's a self defense instructor, one of the best in the world, which he coaches Navy SEALS. He's not actually a Navy SEAL.

And then he's also a fear management guy. It's crazy how fear is one of those things that it happens to all of us, we wouldn't be human if we didn't experience fear. Being out here on the golf course trying to win tournaments, there's a lot of things going through your mind, and whether you want to call it fear or not, I think us men don't like to use that word, but there's a lot of times where, oh, there's water left, you don't want to hit a left, that's a fear. It was a great session with him.

Q. You've won at the Scarlet course. What do you remember from that win?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, that was my first win out here on this tour. That's a great course for me and it's a great course for this tour. It's a championship-style golf course just like this one is. We play a lot of courses where a lot of low scores, you know, because they just -- just seems to be that way. I think next week the scores will be kind of like this week where they won't go too crazy low. I think that suits me a little better. I think I can play at any course at this moment.

Q. And No. 1 out here gets you into THE PLAYERS, gets you into the U.S. Open in North Carolina. Is that -- has that been in the back of your mind at all?

GRAYSON MURRAY: No, not really. Kohlesy's pretty much up there the whole year. I just saw him in the locker room and he said, "Welcome to the 2 club," and said, "Let's see who gets to 3 first." But there's only two left, so we've got to put the pedal down.

Yeah, no, obviously No. 1 is huge. Yeah, I mean, it would be great to get that. If not, then I'm still excited with what I have.

Q. I'm sure you get this question a lot, but what's the dynamic like between you and Kip out there? What is his main role? I mean, has he done a lot of reads for you? Is it keeping you mentally there? What does he do for you out on the course?

GRAYSON MURRAY: Yeah, he's a huge cheerleader. He keeps it very positive, he tells me how good I am and he helps me read greens when I call him in. We do a very good job of reading together.

Yeah, we are growing together. We weren't perfect, even my first win we probably could have played that 18th hole a little better. We talk about it, we try to get better as a team and that's important. I don't think any team out here is going to be perfect from the start, it's always kind of a growing process and we're starting to really mesh well out there.

