

BILLY HORSCHEL (-18)

Q. Billy, you just missed your Memorial interview playing on CBS, which was going to be my first question for you anyway. It's funny, in the midst of that interview, everybody remembers the tears, but you said, "I actually think I'm close."

Here you are. I guess you were right, huh?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah. Listen, it's -- you know, that interview, that moment, as I've talked about a while, it was sort of like a release. I don't fully understand why it happened then and there, because I had shared some of that with my team and my family before leading up to that, but right then and there it just happened. From that moment I've been in a better head space, the game's been going in the right direction since then.

Listen, I'm not afraid to be open and share anything with the public, I think I've always been that way, I think people understand that about me. Yeah, it's been a nice upward trend since that moment.

Q. Probably a good advertisement for people who say, you know, men shouldn't repress their emotions, right? You let it out and --

BILLY HORSCHEL: I don't think anyone should. My wife, you know, with her addiction to alcohol and mental health issues, I think learning more about that side of it. I've tried to tell people, I said, hey, just share it with somebody. It's amazing how when you can just get it off your chest, you feel a little bit better about yourself that you're sharing it with someone.

And you never know what happens when you do share it with someone. They may be feeling the same thing you are and they can relate and you guys can -- people can work together to, you know, work on issues that you may be having.

I wish more people would be more open and more honest, but I know everyone's not that way. But I think in society right now, or going down -- I'm going down a road right now, but I think the more people can be more open about how they're feeling and everything, I think everyone would be in a lot better spot in mental health and a whole bunch of other issues.

Q. You talked a little about the reaction to that and how people reached out to you. Can you talk about anybody that particularly touched you?

BILLY HORSCHEL: You know, it was a lot of people that reached out to me. I mean, the one that comes to my head right now is my buddy Mark Noble. He's a West Ham legend, he just retired last year from West Ham, really close friends.



He actually texted me two days later. He said, hey, sorry I'm two days late, but I couldn't write this text because I was so emotional writing it.

We are very much wired very similar in the way he played professionally and the way I am professionally and the way we handle things and care so much. He was like, listen, there's a lot of times I would come home and I would cry because we were playing so bad or I'd be doing everything I can to get the team to play at a higher level and it wasn't happening.

Just him sharing that with me, him telling me, which I knew already and I'm very well aware of, how great of a player I am and a person I am. Just those little things. Even though I may know that about myself, it never hurts to hear that from people that you love a lot.

Q. Obviously I was going to ask you about tomorrow, your mindset. You were talking about Lucas is a friend of yours and it will be an interesting, good pairing.

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, it's a great pairing. I played a lot with Lucas and I've always enjoyed playing with him. He's had his up and downs in the game of golf. Every pro's going to have an up and down at least once in a career, no one's ever gone through not having a period of that.

So yeah, it's going to be an amazing round of golf tomorrow, we're both going to be battling out there. We've got Russell Henley right behind us and a couple of other guys not too far back.

We're going to have to go out there, play our games and see what happens. I'm happy where my game is, I'm happy where things are trending, I'm happy where mentally I'm heading. So hopefully it's just another day of moving forward, it's another steppingstone. I haven't been here in a while, but I'm prepared for whatever -- however I may feel, whatever comes tomorrow.

Q. Just following up, you said West Ham as in the soccer club?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah.

Q. How did you meet him?

BILLY HORSCHEL: So I watched a movie DVD in college called Green Street Hooligans in 2006. It's with Charlie Hunnam and Elijah Wood.

Q. Fiction, not a documentary?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Fiction, but it's based off the '70s, '80s, '90s, early '90s of the hooliganism in football. West Ham and Millwall were massive rivals that hated each other. It's not even about the soccer part, it's about outside, the fans, the supporters fighting each



other before, after, any other time, who had the best fighters. That's what it was about, just the hooliganism behind the game of football.

Q. But how did you -- you met Mark through that somehow?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: Mark reached out to me two or three years ago after a tournament I won. I can't remember, maybe it was Match Play. He just sent me a message. I don't get shellshocked when anyone ever texts me or whenever I meet anyone, but I thought that was pretty cool.

So from there we just created this unbelievable relationship. He played with me last year at the Dunhill Links. I go over there, spend time with him and play golf. From there I've gotten to know the owners of the club, gotten to know a lot of the players of the club.

So yeah, for someone who lives here in America, I feel very close connected to the club even though I don't live over in the U.K. or the London area. So I've been very fortunate that I befriended the right person when it comes to supporting a club like West Ham.

Q. Did he know you were a soccer guy when he texted you?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: Yeah, so he knew I was a West Ham supporter. I don't know -- I don't know how he found out or not. But he said, I've always been a fan of yours since I found out you were a West Ham supporter, I've been following you. Like I said, I thought that was pretty cool.

Q. I'm sure golf interferes with it sometimes, but do you watch the matches on tape? I mean, are you always watching?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: I watch it all the time. If I'm warming up and they're playing, I've got it on my phone with either an earpiece or I've got it on the phone. I don't miss a match. It's just like college football and the Florida Gators, I don't miss anything with the Florida Gators.

Yeah, I am a very die-hard fan. So whenever -- I try to make sure that I've always got some knowledge of what's going on of how they're doing, when they're playing.

When I'm on the golf course, I probably shouldn't say it, but I do check my phone to see what the score updates are out there.

Q. Did you watch Ted Lasso?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: I do watch -- I did watch Ted Lasso, yeah.

Q. Welcome to Wrexham?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: Yeah, I watched that. I think that starts up again I think next month?



That was pretty cool. They were playing MK Dons in League 2.

Yeah, it's pretty cool what Ryan Reynolds has done, and Rob McElhenney. Now everyone seems to want to buy into a football club. You've got Jordan and Justin, you've got Tom Brady. Yeah, so it's funny how -- because I've been a fan for 15 years, 16 years and then now everyone else has sort of realized how great the Premier League is, how great football is over there, the supporters.

It's really -- I say it's very close rivaled to college football, that's the closest thing you can rival it to here in the States. It's pretty amazing to see, you know, just how guys over here are now sort of being attracted to football over there.

Q. So if you're the most -- like you're the most dyed-in-the-wool Florida Gators guy. What does he think about you calling it football? It's not always a culture thing, sometimes it's one or the other.

BILLY HORSCHEL: Listen, I want to call it proper. I want to make sure I use the right terminology. I don't want to stand out like I'm, you know, an American very much if I'm following a Premier League club, so I do call it football.

The people who may not be aware of what I'm actually talking about, I'll call it soccer. Then when I'm talking to English supporters or English people, I'll call football over here American football. I just try to do things the right way. At least everyone knows what I'm talking about.

Q. Did you find anything with your putter? You're really putting well this week.

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, I felt I've been putting well. The stroke's been good all year, I just haven't made a lot of putts, especially since the more I felt like I've hit it pretty well, I just haven't made any putts.

So we switched putters last week, just felt like needed a new look. So we're using an Odyssey right now. We sort of messed around with a Ping putter earlier this week and we thought we were going to use that, but I had a little hard time with longer putts, judging the speed with it, so we went back to this Odyssey and it's working well.

The big thing for me is feeling comfortable over my setup. If I feel comfortable, I feel like I can make anything. The biggest key, I felt like a lot of -- my putter for the last month has been aiming left of where I want it to be. So this putter right now feels like it's a little more open, sits a little more open for me, which it's matching up my line and my feels so I just feel very comfortable with it right now.

Q. When did you start growing the beard?

BILLY HORSCHEL: I had to do an outing the Monday after Travelers, so I didn't shave, so since then. I shaved the Monday after Travelers for BDO outing, so I haven't shaved since.



I said I'm just going to go with the beard. Or she said just grow the beard out, you're going over to Scotland, playing The Open, you can have it for a couple weeks and maybe your game will start to turn around.

And she actually likes the beard a lot, which she hated it the couple times I've grown it out. But she's very -- she likes it very much, let's just say that.

Q. And obviously a couple years ago you played great here. What is there about this golf course that suits you?

BILLY HORSCHER: I'm just a big fan of courses where it requires precision. I don't mind if a course, it allows guys to be long, but I like it when if you're offline, you get punished. And if you're offline here and miss the fairways, it's tough to play from the rough. I think being able to put the ball in the fairway, that's something I've worked really hard on. It's something I've become really good at the last two or three years. It fits my game, it fits my eye. I love putting on bermuda greens, fast, slopey greens.

Yeah, that's what I love, I love these old-school golf courses that require a little bit more precision. You can be long, but if you're not accurate and long, then you're going to pay the price.

