

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
April 18, 2024

BILLY HORSCHEL (-5)



Q. Opening round 5 under, how would you assess your round?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, it was a solid day of golf. First time being here, enjoyed it so far. The putter worked very nicely today, I made quite a few putts from outside 20 feet, something I don't think I've done a lot of this year.

It's weird, putting on Paspalum I wouldn't say that that would be a good thing, this grass is tough to make putts. Yeah, I holed out really well, played really solid, tried not to get myself in too much trouble. I'm still learning the golf course, where to miss it and everything. Had a couple good up-and-downs, 17 and 18. Yeah, really solid day of golf.

Q. Walk me through that eagle on 7.

BILLY HORSCHEL: I just came off a bad bogey at 6, blocked my drive a little bit so I was in the right rough there, if we can call it rough, longer fairway. I hit a 3-iron from there that came out just the way I wanted, landed just on the front of the green and rolled out to about I would say 30 feet. Chez and Nicolai were right on my line. Chez hit a good putt, played the great. Nicolai hit a good putt, hit it a little too hard.

So I had two really good looks at it to understand the line and speed and it just fell right in over the front edge. Really good eagle there to bounce back after a bad bogey and keep somewhat of the momentum going for the round.

Q. First time here. What's kind of now that you've got a round under your belt general assessment to navigating around this course, especially with the wind?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, it's a really good golf course. It's long, which -- or there's holes that are long and depending on the wind certain holes play a little bit longer. I guess this is maybe a little bit of an unusual wind for this time of year maybe. I guess talking to some guys, 18 usually plays down off the right so we've been playing it in off the right -- in off the left for most of the week and it's still going to be the same way. So 17, 18's going to be a real challenge this week compared to maybe years past.

Yeah, I think it's a really good golf course. I think the driving's nothing overly difficult, but I think it requires really solid iron play, especially when you're playing of winds of 10 to 15, gusting to 20, 25.

So, yeah, I like the golf course a lot. Got off to a good start. Hopefully keep the momentum going for the next three rounds and put myself in a spot to maybe pull off a win here come



Sunday. But need to play a couple more good rounds to get there first.

Q. Were there any players you were talking to, especially Nicolai in your group played here well last year, about getting kind of advice about the course?

BILLY HORSCHEL: No, obviously I can't ask Nicolai --

Q. Not during the round.

BILLY HORSCHEL: -- during the round. Tyson Alexander, who's in his second year out here, he's a really good friend of mine, we played college golf at UF, lives in Ponte Vedre, playing together next week at Zurich, sort of picked his brain because after I missed the cut at Valero, I knew my chances of getting in RBC were very slim. I needed a sponsor pick and obviously that didn't fall my way.

So planned ahead to sort of understand the golf course, what it's like, look at the history, look at the scores to get my mind wrapped around that if I did come down here, I needed to fully be immersed in it and not, you know, complain about being here, not in Hilton Head.

So yeah, I think the course, obviously Matt won it at 19 under, but looking through the history, winners are somewhere between 12 and 17. There's not a lot of guys that are in double digits, so shows you that it's a course where there is gettable scores out there but it's not a massive birdie-fest with 25 guys finishing at 12 under par or better. So that made me feel more comfortable about it.

And then just talking to Tyson earlier in the week about some of the holes and how they play and where some of the tee boxes are set up, so that helps. And my caddie, Mica who was here in the early years of this tournament. So yeah, I think we've done a good job so far. A little bit more thought has to go in when I'm playing a course I haven't seen a lot, making sure I know where I can get away with shots, but I think it's helped so far.

Q. And then just asking at the Zurich is that Sam I believe's having a baby kind of the week of Zurich, so --

BILLY HORSCHEL: What a selfish guy Sam Burns is to have a kid during the week of Zurich. I mean, We've only finished second, fourth, we're really close to winning the event and he decides to have a kid the week of Zurich.

No, I'm very, very happy for him. Him and Caroline are two great people, I love being around them. They're going to be unbelievable parents. I'm really excited for Sam and Caroline to have their first kid.

Sam had mentioned to me earlier in the year that Zurich was not going to happen this year, so I figured why not play with my fellow Gator teammate, a good friend of mine, Tyson, at the Zurich. If Tyson and I win, Sam's not coming back on the team. I think Sam's okay with



that. I think he's got a friend called Scottie Scheffler that he can call up if he wants to play Zurich.

