

**VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**MILES RUSSELL**

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**MODERATOR:** We can get started here. Miles, thanks again for joining us. Media, I'll open it up for questions in a little bit, I'll ask Miles a couple to get us started. Just raise your hand if you have a question and once I call on you, if you can unmute and go ahead.

Miles, what has the last couple of days been like for you since the LECOM Suncoast Classic?

**MILES RUSSELL:** It's been busy. It's definitely been a wild ride. It's been fun, too. That Sunday, Sunday afternoon we were driving home and we were like, well, looks like we might get a chance to come to Texas here. It was definitely a busy Sunday night and a busy Monday morning, but it's been good.

**Q. How does it feel to have earned another opportunity to play this week and how do you feel going into tomorrow's first round?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** You know, earning something, it feels better than getting the exemption almost because you know what you practiced for and what you kind of live for and that's what you did.

Everything's been good out here. I like the course, course is good. We'll see.

**Q. I'm going to hit you with a tough one right away, but I'm wondering, first of all, are you planning to play in the amateur events that you already have scheduled for the summer and is there anything that can happen this week or any other additional pro events that you might play in that could change your status as an amateur?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** No. I mean, I'm not -- I can't even turn pro if I wanted to. No, I'm planning to play the rest of the summer like I planned to. So a couple junior, a couple am events, see how it goes.

**Q. OK. And is it going to be U.S. Amateur, U.S. Junior? Is that going to be the bigger events you'll play in?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** Yeah, we're playing those, we're playing Western Am, some elite am stuff in June, North-South and we have a U.S. Open qualifier, too. So it's going to be a busy summer.

**Q. I'm curious when you finished last week what your gut was there, whether your score was going to be enough and what was kind of going through your head and if**



**you look like at the leaderboard on the ride home to try to calculate it?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** That bogey on 18 definitely made it a little more nerve wracking. I didn't really think I was going to get in after that bogey, but we were kind of doing some math after we went to lunch and on the ride home it was like, all right, we've still got a chance. Luckily, it turned out that way.

**Q. What was that like feeling like when you realized that you were safe and you were going to be playing, and then what were the travel arrangements like?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I was definitely excited to be able to earn a spot into this week, but I mean, you're on such a high to make the cut and kind of do all that, so you can't really get much higher. It's definitely -- you're definitely tired, tired on Monday after that week and all of the emotion and excitement and the adrenaline. You know, that travel from Sunday night to Monday until I got here, it was a long, long day.

**Q. What's up, Miles? Good to see you, man. How many people texted you Sunday night, Monday? Who do you remember the most? Any other like players around the golf world? What was that experience like for about 24 hours? It's probably still going on.**

**MILES RUSSELL:** It was -- it's been busy the last two weeks. No, I mean, I had a bunch of friends, a bunch of family just reach out and congratulate me. It's been nice to feel that support. No, it's been nonstop.

**Q. Did you sense that the guys you were playing with were a little bit surprised by how well you were doing?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I don't know. I mean, anybody can kind of have a week. I don't think they were too surprised. You know, somebody that's somewhat good and they had a good week, they could be there, so I don't know, we'll see how this week goes.

**Q. So what was the timeline of like when you got home Sunday and then when you flew to Dallas?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** Well, we got home probably around 8:00-ish and my dad booked flights that night. Kind of threw everything in the washer that I wore last week, washer that night and dryer in the morning. I think we left for the airport about 10:45, so got to sleep in a little bit, which was nice.

**Q. And then when you're like kind of -- in terms of school, I know you're doing online school, were there any like projects you had to like clean up earlier this week to get ready for this week?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** No, we were in a good spot with school, we were able to kind of just



keep doing little by little. I didn't have anything major due.

**Q. Is there any subject that is like difficult for you in school or is everything pretty -- do you find --**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I mean, they're all hard, they're all hard, but I definitely have my favorites. I love math. Being able to be a golfer, I'm lucky to like math. You know, that's kind of how it is.

**Q. Miles, you're a pretty quiet guy overall, at least the guy that we know, I think. Do you like everything going on, all this attention? Is it fun? How do you view it?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** If I had my choice, I would not have any of it, but it's kind of what happens when you play well so you kind of got to get used to it every once in a while. No, it's been good. Everybody's been nice and easy to work with and hopefully it stays that way.

**Q. Were you surprised when you came out of that scoring tent and there were people waiting for your autograph?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** It was busy walking off 18, so I wasn't too surprised that everybody made their way. No, I definitely got to get better at it.

**Q. With the signature?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** Yes, yes, got to get a little faster.

**Q. Does your success this past weekend, and obviously you had a ton of it, but does it change your expectation for this weekend? Do you now say, hey, I think I can make the cut again or I can compete to win?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** No, I mean, it's the same goals as last week. Just try to put the first and second round, two good rounds together and see where that puts us compared to the cut, and if we make the cut, just try to go and have two more good rounds and see where that puts us.

**Q. Miles, I'm just wondering, did you know -- I don't know if you're on Twitter or if you follow it, but Phil Mickelson gave you a shout-out on Twitter and I'm wondering from one left-hander to the other, how did it make you feel that a guy like Phil Mickelson took the time to give you a pat on the back?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I mean, it was really cool. I had a buddy show it to me. Phil is awesome, I looked up to him. Going out to THE PLAYERS, I always watched him because lefty, lefty, go watch somebody that's kind of similar. No, it was really cool to see somebody that you kind of look up to to give you kind of that pat on the back.



**Q. Scottie Scheffler was asked about you after winning the Heritage and spoke of you as pretty humble in the sense you were out there and people were asking like what you're up to out there and you didn't say like, I won the Junior PLAYERS, you said, I'm just here watching. Where do you think your kind of humility comes from in the sense -- it seems you're doing historic stuff, but it doesn't feel like you want to like pat yourself on the back too much about what you're doing.**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I don't know, I think that's just kind of my personality. I don't like being real showy with things, kind of like kind of walking around a certain way. I like to just kind of go about my business and do my thing.

**Q. Do you feel like -- what's your take on what Scottie Scheffler has been doing with winning four times in five starts, various different courses and conditions? What do you think it is from what you've seen of him that makes him have this ability to do these kind of crazy things?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I mean, it's impressive to watch, the things he's doing, you know, we've probably only seen it by one other guy and that's probably one of the best golfers we'll ever see. I think, I mean, a lot of it is his demeanor is just so kind of, I mean, it's like just there's no up and down, just kind of very smooth and kind of you get what you get and you can't tell if he just made bogey, a double or if he just made an eagle, there's just no difference, different emotions. I think that's kind of, I mean, part of why he's so good and why he's good at what he does.

**Q. What would you say -- what do you love most about golf?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** That I can be by myself every once in a while and it's nice and quiet. I don't know, I like where you get to go out and practice by yourself and nobody gets to really see what you do. I like just kind of it's peaceful in a way.

**Q. Miles, I think last weekend in one of your availabilities after a round, you said there's other younger golfers that are coming along, right? That golf at a young age is so good right now. Why do you think that and how good is it?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I mean, I think everybody, I mean, everybody has access to a ton of stuff, if it's a launch monitor, just some of the best coaches, you know? The equipment, too, like TaylorMade, like all these companies are starting to help younger kids out with gloves, balls, like all the stuff. I think that's a big part of it, and having the right clubs to fit into. I mean, everybody's just so talented. There's so many ways to be good and everybody's finding like every little detail to be good at it or to try to be the best.

**Q. How good is it here in Jacksonville or in northeast Florida? Guys, obviously you, I mean, you've got some of the best players in the country at your age, how good is it here in this area?**



**MILES RUSSELL:** There's a ton of talented players and great players between juniors to pros. It's been a good spot to be, you can get a good match between anybody. It's definitely a packed place of good level of golf.

**Q. Miles, how old were you when you started working with Ramon and especially during the last few weeks and maybe the past -- since August as both a caddie and coach, what do you think has Ramon done the best for you? Just talk about him a little bit and what he means to you and what his influence is.**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I think I've been working with Ramon since I was 7, so he's been my only instructor. He does everything with me, he does swing, chipping, putting, he does it all.

Ramon, he's just, I mean, the nicest and most positive guy you'll ever meet and I think having a caddie, coach, just somebody able to be around, like the vibes he puts off, when you're on a golf course, that's all you need. You need a guy that can kind of flip the mood just like that and get you going. His knowledge about golf is just, it's on a different level. Some of the things like yeah, makes sense, but definitely takes a second to process.

**Q. In terms of -- I know I touched on this a little bit with you last week, but in terms of outside of golf, are there any kind of athletes in other sports that you enjoy watching or think are pretty cool?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** You know, not really. I mean, I kind of live golf and it's either golf or school. You know, go fishing every once in a while, maybe go play tennis or pickleball with my sister, but it's not much else.

**Q. Are there any -- like do you listen to music or podcasts or movies or shows? Is there any of that type of stuff that you're into?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I listen to music. I mean, I like all music, but more of a country guy, I like listening to Zach Bryan, Morgan Wallen, kind of those guys.

**Q. Do you have like -- do you like listen to music like when you're warming up before a round at all ever?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** You know, I don't. I don't like playing golf with like AirPods in. I think I like listening -- there's something about listening to the contact you make when you hit a good one, you've got to know what that sounds like. When you have AirPods, you can't hear that.

**Q. Did you have a favorite shot you hit last week? Like when you think of the week at Lakewood National, what kind of comes to mind as a shot, like that sound you just felt super good about?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** I chipped it off the green on 1 the first day, which was my 10th hole of



the day. That one was I think probably one of the better shots of the week. That one definitely made a little different sound coming off the face. And the turf interaction, there wasn't any because didn't take a divot, but the way that felt, the launch kind of came out nice.

The one I hit on 10 the last day, liked that one. Kind of skipped it down the hill up and over -- yeah, got it to the hill, checked and kind of released on down. I told Ramon, I see this and it came out just exactly what I pictured it to come out like.

**Q. It could have been easy I guess for you to, after going forward with your three on Saturday, to kind of get it in neutral and finish middle of the pack, but that you didn't, but what do you remember about that walk from 3 to 4 and what was going through your mind in the third round after that kind of slow start?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** Well, I know those first three holes, those are hard holes. It was kind of -- I mean, there weren't going to be any harder holes than 1, 2 and 3. Definitely, I'm like all right, I knew I had my chances coming up to maybe even get to -- my goal was to get to even on the front side and I would be thrilled, then have a fresh back side to go.

I mean, that walk, it was definitely kind of just a mental reset and just start as if I just started on the fourth hole even par and that's kind of what I did, just kind of started fresh.

**Q. Miles, your schedule, you will be -- right now you will be back at the Junior PLAYERS?**

**MILES RUSSELL:** That's the plan, yeah.

**MODERATOR:** All right. Well, if there's no more questions, Miles, thanks for joining us this afternoon and good luck this week.

**MILES RUSSELL:** Thank you.

