

VISIT KNOXVILLE OPEN

ROUND 4 QUOTES

May 26, 2024



HARRY HIGGS (-19, won second playoff hole)

Q. Harry, two weeks in a row. You said earlier this week it might not be you holding this trophy, but it is. How's it feel to go back to back in a playoff?

HARRY HIGGS: It feels great. I'd be lying if I told you it didn't feel any better than great. Yeah, thrilled to get another result. I had my list of things last week, I think I netted out maybe a B of accomplishing those. Was fortunate to obviously get the result.

And I would have said I did an even better job this week kind of controlling the things that I wanted to do and again, I get the result. So I would have been happy if I didn't win the playoff, if I wasn't even in the playoff because I felt like it was another step in the right direction taking care of the things that I need to do to bring out my best performing self.

Q. You really got things rolling today on the front nine. Just what was working well for you during that stretch?

HARRY HIGGS: Yeah, I mean, everything. I've been driving the ball well for about a month, so I hit it into a lot of fairways. Then I had good -- and I made it a big focal point today, I had good feel. If I'm trying to hit a certain shot 145 yards, you know, whether it be a pitching wedge or a 9-iron, I kind of had good feel and trusted that. And a lot of the shots came off how I wanted them to, and I holed some nice putts as well on the front. The putter started getting cold, and then was fortunate to end with that thing, I don't know how many feet, 35 feet to knock it in and win.

Q. In the playoff there with Frankie, what was it like competing against him?

HARRY HIGGS: Frankie's in Dallas as well, I've seen him there a few times. We played together at Q-School this last December. He's a phenomenal golfer and he will be standing here doing an interview in short order, I believe. Then I think he will also have great success at the next level.

It was just great -- it's great to win, sure, but again, I was proud of all the other stuff that I did that didn't have anything to do with the result. Then, you know, fortunate things break my way and I do get the result as well. Just kind of hammers it home. It feels great, and then it's also motivation to keep going for more.

Q. You had the small setback in the third round yesterday to start your day and then you were kind of climbing back. What was that like kind of in that round getting back



under par yesterday and then carrying that momentum to today to get back in the lead?

HARRY HIGGS: I hit a poor tee shot, we didn't find it, made double. But I never really -- normally old Harry, not that old of Harry, a little bit ago, I would have freaked out a little bit more and pressed. Then little mistakes can happen there and then it just becomes harder and harder to get back in the tournament.

But I -- 35 holes is so much, so I was just kind of reminding myself of that, and then reminding myself of things that I wanted to accomplish that again had nothing to do with the result. Fortunately, I kept hitting some good shots and holed a few putts and got it back.

Turned and had a good back nine. Got myself in position today. I didn't want to get too far away from the lead. Then to get off to a good start today was huge. I would have liked to have put the thing away before any playoff holes, but I think I've already said I believe I do have a flare for the dramatic. Nice to end like that, for sure.

Q. Your end goal is to get back to the PGA TOUR. Just going back to that, just what does it do for confidence and going forward as you try and get back there?

HARRY HIGGS: It does eons for confidence, but there's a reason why I won. Taking care of my body, my mind. Obviously I stuck to the exact same routine as last week and it worked again this week, so that's probably not going to change much.

But even on -- I mean, I didn't really feel like doing anything Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, but I just made sure that I did the same things. I got prepared in the same way.

Then once I was prepared and felt like I was ready to go, now OK, we're going to worry about how I'm going to treat myself and how I'm going to think out on the golf course. I did a much better job of that this week than last, and the goal has been to do a better job of that when I tee it up next.

Q. In regulation on 18, your first -- you had a long putt from off the green and then you had a little bit shorter putt on 18, and then a shorter one. Did you feel like you knew the read on that last putt?

HARRY HIGGS: Yeah, the one on the first playoff hole I was astounded it didn't go in the hole. So it did, it kind of towards the end snuck a little bit left. The second playoff hole, it looked like that darn thing was going to stay out at the right and just right at the last second it grabbed the right edge and went in.

Again, I was fortunate last week with a hole-out and then probably fortunate that that caught the right edge and went in, but those are the things you have to have to win golf tournaments. So I certainly learned a lot from that regulation putt that I hit way too damn hard. I almost putted 60 yards off the front of the green.



Yeah, it was nice to keep leaving myself I guess similar looks. I kept getting closer and closer and straighter and straighter. I figured eventually one of them might drop. Was very fortunate it did.

Q. You mentioned Grayson Murray and a tribute to him. I think you said you had trouble sleeping last night. Just talk a little bit about what you were going through and how difficult that was.

HARRY HIGGS: Yeah, I think I slept too well Friday evening, or no, sorry, Saturday evening. I never really was very tired. We stayed up and watched the hockey, watched the basketball finish and tried to go to sleep.

My mind was wandering about what today could be, what the result of the day could be. Just laying there in bed taking some deep breaths.

And then also had a brief moment of thought that yesterday was a difficult day for anybody that plays professional golf or anybody that came across Grayson. I just let my mind wander to what I might say to honor him. And I don't pretend to be such an influence that I would be to honor, but I know he is somebody that had some mental health struggles, and there's a lot of people that do. There's a lot of people that don't maybe reach out for help.

I'm fortunate that I don't have mental health issues other than getting frustrated on a golf course, and that stuff really doesn't matter when you look at the bigger picture.

So yeah, I just let my mind wander to how best to honor him and also, you know, try to get a message across that I've heard it before and people said it before, but it's OK to not be OK, to reach out. And the world's tough, man. It's only getting harder and harder. Social media is awesome, but also a pain in the you-know-what. People can be mean.

So I'm going to try myself -- and I'm mean sometimes, too. I'm certainly not perfect, but I'm going to certainly try to live what I said, you know. Say something nice to a loved one and say something nice to somebody you don't know and try to accomplish that daily. That will be part of my routine, part of the things that I can control outside the golf course and hopefully bring light to somebody that may be having a hard time.

I don't know. Again, I don't pretend to be a super influence that matters, but if it does, I want to make a point to do that and hopefully make a difference in a few people's lives over the course of however many years I have left on it crazy planet.

Q. Watching that putt go in, that was a far putt, watching that putt go in, what was your reaction, what was your feeling, what was going through your head?

HARRY HIGGS: I was certainly pretty excited. This green has so much slope in it that you have to hit those putts -- other than the one in regulation, you have to hit those putts soft.



For a long time it looks like it's going to go in, it looks like it's going in, it looks like it's going to get there.

The one in the second playoff hole certainly was like that, much like the first. I thought I made the one on the first. Yeah, it's like moving in slow motion and you're kind of hoping it goes in, hoping it goes in, hoping it goes in, and then for it to drop was awesome.

My caddie and I, we're two for two now on high-fives. Golfers get some slack on not being great at high-five'ing each other in some of those moments. Yeah, I kind of turned, he was right there, we gave a little high-five, a little fist pump. Then was just fortunate that Frankie didn't hole his and we were finished.

Q. What would you say is your biggest takeaway from your time back on the Korn Ferry Tour?

HARRY HIGGS: If I prepare as I know I should and I'm nice to myself, I can do some great things on this tour and I believe I can do some great things on the PGA TOUR as well.

