

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
March 30, 2018



BEAU HOSSLER (-11)

Q. Went into double figures heading into the weekend. You must be really pleased with the place you're sitting right now?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, it's been great. I've taken advantage of a lot of easy holes out here and I've played the tough ones pretty well, so I think I managed only one bogey thus far. I've hit a lot of quality shots and feel like my game's in a good place.

Q. That bogey coming on your opening hole today, it seems like that kind of got you more determined and got you more focused for the rest of the round today.

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, definitely. It's been an interesting week. I've had two really poor warmup sessions and it's kind of ironic because I played some of my best golf like that. I think it kind of gets you focused because you know you've got to go and be really dialed in on every shot because you don't feel totally comfortable. I've gone on the golf course and made really committed swings. And like you said, the opening bogey, just hit a wedge shot a little fat and turned it into a 5, but from then on I hit the ball pretty well.

Q. You're the halfway leader so far heading into the weekend. How do you feel about your position right now, how do you feel about going low now over the weekend and capitalizing on this position?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, yeah, I feel good. It's been really nice this year because I've had some good experience playing in the last three or four groups. I'm looking forward to the weekend. I think all those experiences are going to help.

That being said, this golf course today played significantly harder than yesterday in my opinion. The north wind made a lot of those long par 4s 4- or 5-irons, maybe even hybrids whereas they were 8, 9 and wedges yesterday.

I don't know what the forecast is for this weekend, but I know if it's a south wind, the golf course is a lot more gettable than a north wind. Regardless, it's going to take some good golf.

Q. Beau, let's talk about today starting with 18, because you drew a horrible lie there in the bunker, wedged it out, still managed to get up and down. What's the thought process when you walk up and see that ball lying there?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, it was a bummer. I hit a pretty poor tee shot there, though. Obviously this 18th hole here is probably one of the hardest holes we play all year,

particularly when it's a north wind into the wind. They have the tee up and everybody had 200-plus into that green.

So you stand on that tee really and take a conservative line off the tee and realize that 5 is never going to kill you on that hole. There's obviously a lot higher scores to be made out there, but 4s and 5s don't kill you there. So took a pretty conservative line, didn't hit a great tee shot. Like you said, drew a pretty iffy lie and just laid it up. Good news is it made my decision a little bit easier, had a pretty good number there and hit a really good wedge shot to save par.

Q. Showed a lot of patience. You're growing up fast, three years ago at the University of Texas, learned a lot on the Web.com last year. I mean, you're maturing quickly. Do you feel that?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah. I think it's -- golf is a very difficult game because you're not on your A-game all the time. It's tough, you're only going to play sometimes two tournaments a year, sometimes five tournaments a year that you play really well. It's a matter of staying patient, it's a matter of realizing that success out here is tough. It's not just going to come overnight, it's a process. I've tried to learn from every experience that I've had, good and bad, and I think it's going to help me moving forward.

Q. You played awfully well enough for 36 holes. How good is the game in your mind, how good are you playing right now?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, that's what's interesting, I've had two of my worst range sessions of the year but I played some of my best golf when that's happened. I actually told my caddie on the range yesterday, hitting it all over the place and not making solid contact, I was like, it's funny, I've played some really good golf like this.

Hopefully I can get fired up, start stripping it, but I think I've been really focused just because I haven't been 100 percent comfortable with some of the changes I've made. Particularly when it's windy like this, it's difficult to play golf shots and think about technical stuff. So I was really good about my targets, got some good visuals in my head and trusted the swing, and today it worked out pretty well.

Q. And lastly, how hard is it to not look ahead, because heading into the weekend you've got a great opportunity, but as you know, you've already talked about it, you've got to be patient?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, I think I've gotten myself in trouble doing that just a little bit. The reality is I'm 11 under par. More than likely 18 under par is going to win the tournament unless the conditions are tough, so there's a long way to go. It's not like I can go shoot even par and win this tournament. Like I said, unless there's extreme wind or something, but I'm looking forward to the challenge of the weekend.

Q. Beau, talk about that third shot in here at 18. You almost jar it and kind of kept that great round going.

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, that was nice. You stand on the 18th tee today into the wind and you realize that even a 5 isn't a terrible score there considering the conditions. Took a pretty conservative line off the tee, didn't hit a great tee ball, had a tough break in the bunker there, but was able to get it in a good spot to have a nice full wedge in and had one of my best shots of the year -- of the day, really. So to save par there was a big for momentum into the weekend.

Q. Everybody's talking about the wind, conditions getting difficult out there as the day went on?

BEAU HOSSLER: Definitely. Today was kind of a north, northeast wind. Certainly more challenging on this golf course than a south wind. Seems like a lot of the long holes kind of point north so you're going right into the wind. There were a lot of holes yesterday that I hit wedges to 8-irons in and 4-irons or 5-irons into today, so it's a totally different golf course. I was glad that I played it well with both conditions and looking forward to the weekend.

Q. With the conditions picking up, how will your score hold up?

BEAU HOSSLER: You know, I don't really know. I didn't look. It looks pretty bunched up on the leaderboard. I would assume I would be either tied for the lead or one or two back. I can't see people going all that low, but then again, if you get hot on the greens, the greens are so good here you can make a lot of putts.

Q. What's worked so well for you?

BEAU HOSSLER: I've driven the ball well, I've gotten it in play, and I've really taken advantage of some wedges that I had into greens. I had one mishap there on the first hole today, but other than that I've hit some wedges really stiff. Had some tap-in birdies and really good looks, and I think that will be the key to having some success on the weekend.

Q. Did you come in feeling like you were going to play well? I know every week you hear guys say both things, playing terrible, I'm surprised, or oh, yeah, I saw this coming. The second part, does playing in Texas mean a little more to you maybe?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, I do like playing here, particularly they gave me a sponsor exemption here last year and Steve Timms has been awesome giving me an opportunity to play last year with no status. Love the golf course. I've played here in college, played here qualifying in college for the University of Texas. We used to come down for a weekend a year.

I really am comfortable with the golf course, I've played it probably more than almost any golf course we play on Tour. It's been interesting. Every tournament that I've played from

last year that I had an exemption for, I've come and felt a lot more comfortable this year. So hoping to draw on that for the weekend, but yeah, it means a lot to play here.

Q. Did you see this coming though?

BEAU HOSSLER: Oh, sorry. No, not really.

Q. Do you ever?

BEAU HOSSLER: Oh, no, when you're playing that well, sometimes it's you're hot with the putter, sometimes it's full swing. I've been struggling with my long game, been making some changes, and I've known that good golf is on the horizon. I didn't know if it was going to be this week or a month down the road or two months. I know the stuff that I'm working on is going to help me be a lot more consistent, but thus far it's worked really well.

Q. Just about the round today, real quick overview?

BEAU HOSSLER: Drove it well, had a lot of good opportunities from the fairway to make some birdies, and hit the wedges pretty well, got some really good looks. Then there's nine gettable holes and nine really tough holes out here, and fortunately I don't think I made any bogeys on the tough holes so that's where I was at.