

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
March 31, 2018

BEAU HOSSLER (-14)



JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome Beau Hossler into the interview room after a 3-under par 69. He is currently tied for the lead with 18 holes to play here at the Houston Open. Beau, another solid round out there, if we can get some comments on your play.

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, it was a really patient round for me today, which was what I needed. Conditions weren't easy, certainly significantly more difficult in my opinion than the first two rounds. Golf course is firming up a little bit on the greens, they're getting fast and the wind was blowing pretty good.

So to get a 69 in the house today was strong. Saw there were some low scores on the board today, but going out there, a lot of pars are good on those par 4s. Course is playing tough. The cool thing about this golf course is there's a lot of birdie opportunities out there and then there's some really difficult holes as well. So you can be aggressive on probably half the holes and the other half you're trying to make par and get out of there.

JOHN BUSH: Currently tied with Ian Poulter. Just comment on your mindset heading into the final round.

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, it's kind of the same thing, I know guys behind us will play well, it's going to take a good number tomorrow to win. But with that being said, you have to remain patient, you can't force anything. I know out here you can make some good midrange putts because the greens are so pure, you can get yourself some 20-footers that you can make if you get it online.

So I feel good about tomorrow I feel like my game's in a good spot. It was nice to play with Rickie today and have some crowds like we'll probably see tomorrow. Looking forward to it.

Q. Beau, you mentioned it's going to take a good number to win this tournament. Is there a certain number you're thinking you might have to reach tomorrow?

BEAU HOSSLER: Not necessarily, just because I haven't looked at the forecast, I don't know where the pins are going to be, I don't know what the greens are going to be like. If they continue to get faster, you're going to have some pretty dicey putts. It could be as much as 18 under par, it could be as little as 14 or 15, you never know. I don't know what the wind's going to do, but I know that this golf course, when it blows, can really get tough.

Q. You've been on the leaderboard a couple times now through 36 holes, this is your first share of a 54-hole lead. Are you proud of the way you handled the pressure today, and obviously you're going to have to keep your nerves calm tomorrow?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, absolutely, I'll be nervous just like I always am. I've learned at each stage of golf that I've played from junior golf to amateur golf to now playing professional golf that winning tournaments is difficult and it takes a level of comfortability to do that. I think there's a learning curve there, and like you've said, I've been fortunate to have some opportunities where I've been in that last group and today was probably the best that I've felt I think just through experience.

Q. Ian was adamant in saying he is absolutely not thinking about the Masters, no way. Are you thinking about the Masters?

BEAU HOSSLER: No. I just think that thinking like that is only going to get me in trouble. I'm just going to try and play one quality shot at a time tomorrow. I know it sounds cliché, but sometimes it's difficult to do in a spot like that. Today I did that, didn't look ahead at all and felt good about the result.

Q. Have you ever played a round at Augusta National?

BEAU HOSSLER: I have played three rounds.

Q. And?

BEAU HOSSLER: It's as good as it gets.

Q. Beau, so far in your young PGA TOUR career you have in the Fall Series been in this position before going into the final round as a co-leader. Anything you draw from that experience in Vegas that you carry into tomorrow?

BEAU HOSSLER: Yeah, it was kind of an odd tournament there in that the way the weather was, the wind never picked up until the last six or seven holes. And TPC Summerlin, in my opinion the most gettable holes are kind of in the middle of the back nine and we were playing them in some pretty gale force winds, so it was tough. It was one of those rounds I was being patient, halfway through I was maybe 1 over par but playing fine and I knew I would have some birdie holes, and it picked up to 20-mile an hour winds and it was really difficult. That's why you saw some guys tee off pretty early and get in the house before the winds really picked up. I think Alex Cejka got in a playoff and teed off two hours before we did. Tomorrow I don't expect it to be like that. I expect more than likely the guy who wins to be within four or five groups of the final pairing. But that said, there's so many good players right there, it's a very bunched leaderboard still and I think it's going to be a dogfight out there.

Q. Beau, you kind of mentioned it, because of the way you played today in contention under pressure, so to speak, does that make you feel good about tomorrow?

BEAU HOSSLER: Totally, yeah. Like I said, playing with Rickie also kind of helped me out

there just because I've played in some groups with some crowds, but he gets some pretty rowdy fans sometimes, too. We had a really good time. I felt really good with the crowd, with the pressure being in the final group and I felt really good down to the end today so hopefully we can do that again tomorrow.

Q. Beau, how important is it when you're playing in a group with someone that you feel comfortable with as opposed to somebody you don't? Does that affect your game a little bit or anything?

BEAU HOSSLER: Sure. I think like I was talking about earlier, being comfortable on the golf course is the key to success. Now, playing well when you're uncomfortable is what really good players are able to do.

But yeah, I mean, certainly pairings at all times can affect play, particularly when you're playing with guys that are playing well around you, I think it helps you to play better. With that being said, I know I'll play with Ian, but I don't know who the third player will be. But I'm hoping to see some good golf around me in the group, I mean I want to win when everybody's playing their best, I don't want everybody to fall apart around me.

JOHN BUSH: Beau, best of luck tomorrow.