

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 2, 2018

BROOKS KOEPKA (-4)



Q. Brooks, would you say this is a tough driving course? I'm sure it is, but the way the fairways are set up, does it almost make it a little bit easier on your eye that you can kind of see which direction you can go?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah. I mean, I like the way the holes kind of set up. I feel there's a lot of left-to-right holes. Obviously, being a little wet makes the fairways a bit wider than they have been in years past. You know, where it's been quite firm the last two, three years where you can kind of keep it five yards off the fairway and it just scoots in and it always seems to find just a foot into the rough, where the balls are stopping this week.

Q. I have a question. Your generation growing up, you hear a lot of people saying, "I want to be like Tiger Woods." You would hear very people say, "I want to be like Phil Mickelson." Is it just a matter of wins, is it as simple as that?

BROOKS KOEPKA: I just think -- that is a hard question. You know, I think a lot of that has to do with how much hype was around Tiger. I think -- I mean, I think ESPN came out with one of those stats like one of the most dominant athletes of all time and Tiger's up there. And if Tiger didn't exist, we would all be talking about Phil.

You know, it's one of those things where when you get two great players -- I mean, you look at it, you've even got Ernie in that, Vijay, Retief. You forget about those guys and how good they were, but Tiger just brought the excitement to golf where that's not always the case with golf. It gets kind of boring.

Q. I think often just the easy way is to paint Tiger and Phil as complete opposites, but I don't really get that sense, I think they probably have a lot in common.

BROOKS KOEPKA: I mean, one's right-handed, one's left-handed, but other than that...

Q. Like Smylie told me people -- like if you're a left-hander, you probably would have grown up playing more like Phil.

BROOKS KOEPKA: Maybe, I don't know. I don't really -- I've never tried to play left-handed that much. I just think the energy that Tiger brought, you look at it, there's a reason all the fans come out. I mean, look at Augusta this year, like the ticket sales for all that when Tiger was playing. I think even Hero was one of the second-most watched events.

Q. British Open.

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, stuff like that. So obviously he's drawing the fans and it's good for the game, it's good for us to have him out here.

Q. Have you been to Bellerive at all?

BROOKS KOEPKA: No, I haven't been there. I haven't seen it, so I don't know anything about it.