

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 2, 2018

KYLE STANLEY (-7)



Q. Kyle, does this seem like the kind of course where you can do what you did today when you first saw it a couple years ago? It's supposed to be a very difficult golf course. Does it seem like a difficult golf course?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, I mean, the course is pretty soft right now, the fairways and the greens are pretty receptive. But, you know, I feel like it suits my game pretty well for a guy that hits a lot of fairways and a lot of greens. So took last week off so came in here pretty well rested and putter feels good as well. So overall, really happy with the day.

Q. At 29, were you thinking -- how low you were thinking?

KYLE STANLEY: I didn't realize it was a 29 until I signed my card, but probably should have given the fact it's 35-35=70. But yeah, hit it for the most part pretty close all day. I think most of my birdie putts were probably within 15 feet or so. And the greens are in pretty good shape, so if you hit your line, they'll most likely go in.

Q. When you look back at the Memorial, did it take a couple days of kicking yourself that you came close, or did you look at all the things you did well and try to build on them?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, a little bit of both, I'd say. I mean, having four of those late birdies in a row to kind of give myself a late chance was, you know, something really positive that I could build on. And 18, I mean, I really liked my play there in regulation with the driver, it suits my eye with the cut I play off the tee. So, you know, I kind of just took that to, you know, being a bad break. And so, yeah, I took a little bit of -- I mean, a lot of positive out of it. I was down for a couple days, but we're fine now.

Q. Kyle, how is it that you did not know how low you had gone your first nine? Are you just playing hole by hole, you're not looking at leaderboards? How are you not aware of that?

KYLE STANLEY: Well, I mean, I knew that I was 6 under, I just didn't --

Q. Didn't do the math?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah. I can't subtract 6 from 35 and get to 29, I guess.

Q. Is that your best nine?

KYLE STANLEY: I'm sure I've had a few 29s before, but I don't know if I've shot in the 20s on Tour before.

Q. Do you try to become Mr. Ohio like Tiger, Memorial and this?

KYLE STANLEY: I play well here, so I don't know. You know, a lot of these golf courses, same grass as what I play back home and kind of the same look. So it's a place where I think because the courses are fairly similar to what I grew up on and I still live in Washington now, very similar condition-wise to what I see when I'm home on my off weeks.

Q. How do you sum up your season to this point?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, I mean, it's been good. I'm happy with my game, I feel like I've played fairly consistent the last couple years. You know, having a chance at the Memorial, it would have been nice to win there. I feel like my game's in good shape.

Q. When you say consistency, is it consistency of finishes or consistency of the quality of golf shots?

KYLE STANLEY: Probably just the quality of how I'm playing. It seemed to maybe level out the past couple years. Really don't feel like I've had, you know, any real weakness, I would say, in my game. My ball-striking's been pretty solid now for a couple years so there hasn't been much thought there. You know, I feel like overall I putt okay. Yeah, I mean, I feel good.

Q. Given any thought to Ryder Cup?

KYLE STANLEY: You know, I check the standings, but I don't -- I don't pay too much attention to it, no.

Q. No? Not interested or not --

KYLE STANLEY: No, I'm interested, but I'm probably more process oriented, so I feel like if I play good golf, a lot of the things that I want to happen will kind of take care of themselves. That's how I kind of go about thinking about it.

Q. How often do you check the standings?

KYLE STANLEY: I think I'm 16th or 17th last time I checked.

Q. So you know?

KYLE STANLEY: I know, yeah.

Q. A good week this week and next week, right?

KYLE STANLEY: So it's on our radar, for sure. Just have to finish out the season strong.

Q. When I wrote about you before you first came here, you were kind of working on the range until 3 a.m. You're not doing that anymore, are you?

KYLE STANLEY: No.

Q. Do you still kind of have that work ethic?

KYLE STANLEY: Yeah, I still practice pretty hard. You know, it's probably not like Vijay Singh, practice all day. I definitely think more about my energy levels now than maybe did I in the past.