

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**10 October 2018**



**BILLY HORSCHTEL**

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**MODERATOR:** Like to welcome Billy Horschel to the media centre here at the CIMB Classic. Billy, three top-3s in the FedExCup Playoffs. You had to withdraw from Boston, but might have had a chance to actually win the FedExCup, fifth in the FedExCup overall. Just talk about the way you ended the season. It was pretty incredible, runner-up at the TOUR Championship, too.

**BILLY HORSCHTEL:** It was a great run to end the season. I've played really, really good golf since after Augusta. To finish off the season in the Playoffs when it means a little bit more, you always want to play well at the end of the season, especially when you've got the FedExCup pride and trying to be the second guy to win twice. It meant a lot to play well. And obviously Tiger played really well and won the TOUR Championship.

But a great way to end the year. 2017 was a tough year for me and 2018 started out the same way, but to see the perseverance and the hard work that my team had put in, it was nice to see all the results finally come.

**MODERATOR:** I know you said you were really impressed with the golf course, the changes to the golf course out there. What's it like kind of being back here in Malaysia and what did you think of the course out there?

**BILLY HORSCHTEL:** I haven't been back in about four years, so the course I knew had always played really a lot of low scores. First time I played here in 2013, the winning score was 14 under, then after that it was always like 18, 22, up in the 20s. So to see the golf course with the new bermudagrass, the course is in unbelievable shape. It's going to play a lot tougher. I think maybe 18, could get to 18, but I think it will be around 14, 16 under par just because the greens are firmer. It's going to be a little bit tougher on the par 3s, some of the longer shots in to hold the ball on the greens. It's going to be a great test of golf, I'm looking forward to it. As I said, the course is in unbelievable shape and I think everybody can be proud about it.

**Q. With the finish that you had to the season and after that you took a few weeks off. How do you try to (inaudible) in those three or four weeks off and then start the season again? What do you try to do during those weeks off?**

**BILLY HORSCHTEL:** I tried not to do much. The first week I just relaxed at home with my family and my kids and hung out. Then the next week I started practicing to get ready for the rest of the year.

I knew going into the latter half of this season, I knew I was going to play in the fall,

something I haven't done a lot in the last couple years. So I felt good with where my game was. I didn't need to make changes and in two weeks you can't make a lot of changes. So I was just trying to rest up, build up some energy for this last stretch of the season but beginning half of the new 2018-2019 FedEx season. I feel good about it because I played well at the end of the year, I'm excited to hopefully maybe take what I found in the FedExCup Playoffs into the start of the year and get off to a faster start.

**Q. Did you find something, something clicking for you or was it just hard work?**

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** I think it's a little bit of both. I think the hard work I was putting in finally came to fruition. I think also at Barbasol really sort of jump started that. The one part of my game that was sort of struggling for a year and a half, my iron play hadn't been really consistent. So I found something a couple weeks before at Travelers and Quicken Loans.

I played better than what my scores were and what my results were and then had a couple weeks off to get ready for Barbasol and get ready for the last half of the season. It was nice to go to Barbasol and see the results and the hard work in the iron play translate over into really good play. So really just iron play, being more consistent on a day-to-day basis, being closer to the hole to give myself more opportunities and better opportunities to make birdies.

**MODERATOR:** What was kind of the goals coming into this season obviously after the way you finished the year strong?

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** What are my goals. I know my team and I sat down at the PGA Championship and sort of set the schedule for 2018-2019 and we have some goals that we put down. I like to sort of say I've got big goals and small goals. I can't accomplish the big goals without accomplishing the small goals first.

But I would say my big goal would be win a major, make the Presidents Cup team, win a couple times on the -- be a multiple winner this season, then try and get myself back inside top-10 in the world and give myself a better chance to make a run at the No. 1 world ranking.

Those are the goals I've always had every year, but the way I've been playing, the work I've been doing, I feel like it's a little bit -- I've got a better chance of finally accomplishing those goals because of the growth I've had in my game over the last six, eight months.

**MODERATOR:** And you're playing all three weeks here in Asia. How important is it to get off to a good start here this season in this three-week stretch?

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** Really important. I haven't played much in the fall in the last three or four years, maybe one or two events due to the fact I just didn't really want to play. My game wasn't in a position where I wanted to go out and struggle at the start of the season. I wanted to work on my game and hopefully figure out some stuff.

Now that my game's in better shape and I'm more excited about where the game is, where

all aspects of my game are, I'm excited to play. So to come over here and play CIMB, play CJ Cup, play HSBC, I think I can get off to a really good start and help project myself up into the FedExCup because now with one less Playoff event and the schedule will be a little more condensed, I think you're going to see that it's a little more vital and a little more crucial to be higher up in the FedExCup going into the Playoffs because there's not going to be -- in my opinion I don't think there's going to be a lot of changes. The top-20 guys up there are going to be guaranteed the TOUR Championship, so more or less you're playing for 10 spots. But with only two Playoff spots available, it's going to be tougher for guys that are behind the top-50 in the FedExCup really to jump up inside the top-30. So it's crucial to get off to a good start, accumulate as many points as I can in these next few weeks. It gives me a head start on everybody else.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**BILLY HORSCHER:** I think it's great. You're seeing that the game is truly global and I think like anybody, people in America, people playing in Europe, people playing in Asia, South Africa, South America, everyone understands that if you want to beat the best players, if you want to challenge yourself against the best players, you've got to come to the PGA TOUR. You've got to play against the PGA TOUR players that arguably are the best players in the world day in and day out.

So it's great to see where their games are, test your game against everyone else and what you need to do to improve on so you can be on the PGA TOUR, so you can be competing, so you can win. I think there's great players all over this world, so to see more Asian players coming to our Tour, I think it's just going to multiply in the years down the road.

**MODERATOR:** Best of luck this week, Billy. Thank you so much for coming in.