



**BROOKS KOEPKA**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome Brooks Koepka to the 3M Open. No. 1 player in the world, No. 2 in the FedExCup right now. You just had a look at nine holes at TPC Twin Cities. It's your first trip around here. What did you think of the golf course, first off?

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Oh, the golf course is really good, I like it. I think it suits me quite well. It's a longer golf course, I can hit driver and take advantage of it and kind of cut some corners, and I think that will be a big advantage this week. These fairways are about as good as I've seen them. The greens are really nice. It seems like a great golf course. I'm excited to play it. I know the front nine's the harder nine, so glad to play that one today.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** You had a week off last week, Brooks. This is a new tournament just like last week was on the PGA TOUR schedule. Coming here, what sort of vibe have you felt from the 3M Open and also in Minnesota, and have you spent much time here before?

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** No, I haven't spent too much time obviously other than the obvious stuff in Minnesota. No, I can't believe how many people are out on a Wednesday. I don't think I've ever seen that, especially at 7:00 a.m. Fourth of July weekend, I'm sure a bunch of people got off work. I think it could be a perfectly timed event. I think we're going to see a lot of fans, great sporting town. It will be a fun week.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** And before we take some questions, you've had a great season, already won a couple of times, including a major championship. Making a push now, we've only got five weeks left, seven events until the Playoffs start, the FedExCup Playoffs, and you're in great position. Just talk about that a little bit.

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, being in second in the FedExCup is great, but, you know, as far as you've got to look short term, too, at the Wyndham Rewards, trying to finish the season off right. Your season's kind of I guess up in the air the last -- well, these last five weeks if you want to make a push for the Wyndham Rewards. It would be a great accomplishment that we -- being the first year. I mean, that's a cool -- it would be a cool achievement to win it the first year around and then that just sets you up for a great run in the Playoffs and a chance to win the FedExCup.

**Q. Why did you decide to put this one on your schedule?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I talked to Hollis Cagner about it I think one of the first weeks the event or I was told that the event was going to be here and I heard about the golf course. He told me it was a big hitter's golf course and that's what I like. I like being able to pull

driver on a lot of holes. From what I saw on the front, maybe 12 to 15 under par is going to win.

I'm not the best when it comes to shootouts, if it's going to be 25, 26 under par. I'm a little better when the scores are a little bit lower. So that was part of the reason why. It fit the schedule nicely. I obviously don't play the week before the British, so I want to get reps in this week and feel confident going in.

**Q. With this kind of serving as a major tune-up just two weeks ahead of time, do you treat tournaments like this any differently? Do you work on different things I guess heading into certain majors?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I'm not working on anything. I just want to get a good feel of where my game's at, see if there's some things I want to work on, whether it's with the putter, short game. It's tough to prep for links golf here. You've got to get over to Ireland early to prep for that. This week it will be just trying to win a golf tournament, that's the only thing I'm here to do.

**Q. You mentioned you're not great at the shootouts. Is there a reason why you believe that you're better when the scores are a little bit higher instead of when they're going real low?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I don't know, I've always kind of been that way. It's always been a bit of a struggle for me when it seems like every hole you've got to make birdie. Sometimes my aggressive play, if I get a little too aggressive, it can kind of backfire. You make a bogey in a shootout like that, you're going backwards very quickly. Guys are making birdies, you drop two shots and all of a sudden maybe you push a little bit harder on the next few holes and make another mistake and you start falling back.

But if it's closer to even par, I'm a little bit more disciplined and understand that the center of the greens are my friends if I, you know, get a hard hole. Just put it on the green, two-putt and walk away with par, I'm happy. I know I haven't lost anything, I've maybe gained a half shot on the field. So I think sometimes it's a little easier that way. I think it just comes down to my aggressiveness and being a little too aggressive.

**Q. Brooks, you talked about the Wyndham Rewards. If you have a chance to win that, will you play Greensboro?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, I mean, that's a possibility. You have to see where things are at and mathematically how -- where you could fall or if you could stay at the top. I think it's a great opportunity. And like I said, who doesn't want to win it the first year it's out? It would be pretty special.

**Q. To follow up on that, if you do that, I'm assuming you're going to play Memphis?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** A lot of weeks.

**Q. So that's six of eight for you to end this season. How do you mentally prepare for that or emotionally prepare for that big tough stretch right in the middle of the summer?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** It's fine. I feel like I take pretty much the whole first two months of the season off basically from China on to Hawaii, I'm not touching clubs, I've put them away. Just take a little bit of a break.

And then you look at it, the West Coast, I'm not a big fan of poa, I think everybody -- I know I've won two majors on poa but I'm not the most comfortable, I don't feel as confident, especially that time of year. February, January, it's -- it gets very bumpy. There's a lot of traffic on it and for some reason my head, I just can't get over that. So that's probably why I don't play a lot on the West Coast.

I think my season kind of starts right about Honda where I feel like it's go time and you're in the majors. And then to end the season, I mean, you've got to make a good run for Wyndham or for the FedExCup.

**Q. Brooks, you said that the front nine is harder than the back nine. How do you plan on attacking it and why do you say it's more difficult?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Just my caddie told me that, so I'm just repeating what my caddie said. Yeah, he told me that the front nine was a little bit harder. Yeah, there are some difficult holes where you can really get out of position very quickly. I think the fairways are quite generous. I think there's two par 5s on this golf course, so it would be nice to take advantage of the par 5s if you can with my length. And then the par 3s are exactly short. I don't know what the yardage is for this golf course, but it's definitely a longer one. And especially with the rain that they've gotten -- over, I think, Sunday and Monday it rained pretty good -- the golf course has held up reasonably nice.

**Q. Looking forward to the Open Championship, have you played Portrush before?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Never been to Ireland.

**Q. Well, seeing --**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** So that's a no.

**Q. Seeing how your caddie Ricky is from Portrush, has he given you any kind of scouting of what the course is like and how it might fit how you play the game?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I hope he knows that golf course like the back of his hand because that was his home course growing up. It's links golf, it's always a bit different. I enjoy it

because I see about 10, 15 different shots every time I'm over the ball. Even from 150 yards, you could just chip a little 7-iron and have it roll up. You can hit wedge if you want. It's so interesting to me. I enjoy that, the option of shots that it creates.

But, I mean, he knows that golf course probably better than anybody other than G-Mac would be the only one.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** There's enough pressure in majors. Will you feel any extra with him on the bag being from there?

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** No, I'll be all right. I think he'll be just fine. He's going to have a lot of support, which will be cool. I mean, when's the last time it was in Ireland, like in the '50s is I think?

**MARK WILLIAMS:** '51.

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** So that's cool for everybody in Ireland. I know that there's a big fan base in Ireland. Everybody loves golf in Ireland. It will be cool to go back there.

And then to have it in his hometown, it will be a little more special but no added pressure. I put enough pressure on myself for those events.

**Q. Brooks, as somebody who has succeeded in peaking for majors, does this new schedule present more of a challenge or is it easier because the majors are more compressed?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** It's way easier. I think the fact that they're compressed into about a five-month period if you go from THE PLAYERS on. If you get hot -- like I said in interviews back in January or February, if you get hot, you could almost run the table. Come close, but it's a good feeling knowing that they're so close together and if all you have to do is just continually get a little bit better every time, being as close as they are, it makes our schedule planning a lot easier. For me, I know a bunch of guys like to play the week before. The British is the only one I don't do it, so I just want to get adjusted over there a little bit early so it makes it a little bit easier.

**Q. Can you talk about going back three years to Hazeltine on what you remember about the craziness of the atmosphere there and just kind of what that whole experience was like for you?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** It was unbelievable, but I don't -- I don't think I knew what was going on being the first Ryder Cup. I think I was more in awe and shock. The whole week I was just like a deer in the headlights. It was awesome to look back at, and we still talk about it, my caddie, and how cool that was. Every time I play with Brandt, we're always joking about how much fun we had and how well we played.

That atmosphere, you know, I'm ready for the Ryder Cup to come back to the States just because that atmosphere was so cool. Having everybody behind us, playing for your country, and then to have the fan base and that environment to play in front of is unlike anything. It makes it feel like a true sporting event.

**Q. With the PGA TOUR adding a couple new events like here, do you like the idea of getting some new sites to potentially play at, or are you more comfortable kind of knowing these courses kind of inside and out?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I like it. It takes away the advantage guys have of years of playing it, knowing where to miss it. You've got to do your homework in three days or if you came early on site to visit it, it kind of definitely levels it out a little bit, especially if you're a rookie. I think that that's -- if I was a rookie, I'd play all the events I could that were brand new on the schedule. I like it. It gives us -- it's fun to play different golf courses, too. You never know what you come across, what you might like, especially designing Memorial Park or helping Tom do stuff like that, so I kind of got into a little bit of the golf course design. So the more golf courses I see, it's more fun for me on that aspect.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** All right, Brooks. We appreciate your time, thanks for coming in and joining us, and good luck this week.

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Thank you.