



**NATE LASHLEY**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome Nate Lashley into the interview room at the 3M Open. Thanks for joining us, Nate. Obviously coming off a wonderful victory last week at the Rocket Mortgage Classic, that's a story that's been well told. I know you've had a bit of a whirlwind the last 48 hours I guess since winning. If you could just tell us a little bit about what you've been doing the last couple days.

**NATE LASHLEY:** Yeah, it's just been a lot of media work, a lot of interviews. I was on the Today Show, that was great. It was a lot of fun getting to meet the hosts non that. Carson Daly's a huge golf fan. Getting to meet him, that was a lot of fun. Did NBC Nightly News, did a little interview with them. That was a little tough, they were asking some tough questions, but at the same time it was great. And then just a lot of phone interviews and just talking a lot about golf and my story.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Does it all seem a little bit surreal still? Is it starting to sink in? Are you getting to the point where, okay, I need to do some work here now this week?

**NATE LASHLEY:** Yeah, definitely it's changed a lot in two days. My phone's just been blowing up and just constant phone calls, constant messages. Just doing -- just having to do a lot of work really. You know, that's something that comes along with winning, I wouldn't change it for anything.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** And coming here, I'm not sure whether you've had a chance to see the golf course yet. Have you spent any time in this area and what are you looking forward to this week?

**NATE LASHLEY:** I haven't been in Minneapolis for a long time. I was here when I was younger, a kid. I was here for a basketball tournament I think when we were about 12 or 13 years old. That was the last time I was in Minneapolis.

Got a chance yesterday to go out and play the back nine. The course is in great shape. The greens and fairways are fabulous. It looks like it's going to be a really good week. I mean, I think you hit the ball well out there, it's -- you know, you're going to really be able to score. The greens are perfect. If you hit good putts, they're going to go in.

**Q. Two-part question. First, did you have -- once you found out you got into the tournament on Monday last week, did you have any inkling at all you would be able to accomplish what you did? And part two of that, have you had any time to think about how significant this is and how your life is going to change just based on one victory?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** Well, I actually found out that I got in on Wednesday between 11:00 and noon somewhere in there when I finally got the call that I got into the tournament. It was just a relief. I didn't want to be first alternate. I've been playing well. I played well at the U.S. Open, so I feel like I needed to get into an event to keep moving up on that FedExCup list, because you don't want to fall too far down, then it just creates more and more pressure on you towards the end of the season. It was really just a relief getting in the event and I was just thankful to get in.

As far as obviously I wasn't thinking about winning. My goal was to finish top-10 last week, but I started off hot that first round and I thought, hey, if I can follow it up the next day, Friday, with a good round. Shot 5 under on Friday, then I thought, you know, well, I'm going to have a chance, I thought.

Then I played just absolutely -- Saturday, just nothing could go wrong. It didn't matter if I hit a bad shot or not, it ended up by the pin somehow. I just couldn't ask for more out of that round.

Sunday was a little nerve wracking, but I got off to a good start and from there just tried to get it in the house. Nobody really made a big run at me. Those last few holes were kind of stress free.

**Q. Nate, will it be difficult for you in your mind to compartmentalize what happened last week and refocus and get back to doing your job?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** You know, I think I'll be able to answer that tomorrow. As of right now, I'm just -- I'm going to practice a little bit this afternoon and I'll see tomorrow how I feel on the golf course.

I think I'll be able to focus in a little getting to play with Tony and Phil and there will be a lot of people around. I don't want to be hitting people all day and in the rough and knocking people out. So just on that factor, I'll be focused in. I want to play well with those guys as well, so I think that pairing, I'm hoping that pairing's going to help me this week.

**Q. I'm going to follow up with a simple question. How did last week in your opinion make you a better player?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** I think it just gave me a lot of confidence and the ability and the thoughts of knowing that I can win out here. You know, playing that well last week was just a dream come true really. I think the most I'm going to take away from it is confidence and the feeling that I belong.

**Q. Of the last 48 hours, what's been the coolest thing that happened and the best, maybe the most impactful message that you got?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** Probably the coolest thing was getting to go to New York City. I had never been to New York City, so just flying into the city and getting to drive around, it was eye opening. It's like, wow, I want to go back and visit New York City. Being on the Today Show was really, that was a lot of fun. Getting to meet those guys, that's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of deal.

And then what was the second part of the question?

**Q. Of all the messages you've gotten --**

**NATE LASHLEY:** Probably the best message I got was Saturday night was, "Don't turn the TV on," and just basically, you know, "Turn your phone off, don't look at social media, just go to dinner, relax and try to get some sleep." That was probably the best message I had. And I pretty much did that for the most part. I didn't pay attention to anything. I didn't sleep real great, but other than that, I didn't get caught up in everything that was going on with the media and everything that was being said about me.

**Q. Who told you that? Who did the message?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** There was a few people actually told me that. Just some guys that I know that were watching the tournament on the TV. They said, "Hey, just don't turn the TV on because it's just nonstop coverage about you and your story. Just get some sleep and focus on tomorrow."

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Nate, since being on property here, I'm sure you've run into a lot of players and they've seen you. What's that reaction been like and does it feel any different and how different?

**NATE LASHLEY:** Yeah, just got a lot of congratulations from the players, from the caddies, from media and Tour officials, everybody. It's been great. Like I said, in all my interviews, it's surreal and it's like a dream come true. Wouldn't trade it for anything.

**Q. New sponsorship offers?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** Yeah, think some of that's starting to come in a little bit. I haven't paid much attention to it yet. John's been kind of handling most of it for me. We'll dive into that when the time comes.

**Q. Any new purchases after that big check?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** No, nothing yet.

**Q. Can you just again kind of elaborate on have you been able to reflect on how much one victory can change your life with the two-year exemption and all that stuff? What a major impact that is? Have you had time to even reflect on that?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** I mean, a little bit. Obviously with everything that's been happening with social media and all that, it's definitely -- it's been a life-changing event obviously, and being in here. From getting my pairing this week, I went from playing finishing in the dark to playing with Phil and Tony. So it's been great. I didn't quite realize how much it would change my life, but it's going to be wonderful. I couldn't ask for more.

**Q. Any other pairings that you've been through before that compare to this one at all?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** Last year I got to play with Phil and Lee Westwood in the third round of the Houston Open. That was probably -- and then I got to play with Spieth in the third round at the U.S. Open. Those were the two biggest pairings I played. I really like it. I enjoy playing with those guys, I like the competition, the people following us. And I almost like them rooting for them more, kind of gets me going a little bit.

**Q. If you have just a second to even think about the irony in that you wanted to get into the tournament given that you're playing well, of course winning last week, you're here this week, you're in The Open Championship, World Golf Championship, now with your standing on the FedExCup, where are you going to take a week off to actually get some rest?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** Yeah, it's wild. I almost didn't get in the tournament and now I'm going to be playing in the British, going to be playing in the Masters, going to be playing in the FedExCup finals, going to have a chance to make a run at the Wyndham Rewards.

It's kind of back to the other question, it's been a life-changing sequence. Get the Masters, the PGA next year. You know, the Sentry Tournament of Champions. I get to play in whatever I want. I haven't had that freedom being on Tour the last two years, I've kind of had to take what I can get. Having the freedom and ability to kind of pick and choose what tournaments I play now, it's going to be great.

**Q. How do you go about just changing your mindset from what you did last week, what you've got coming up and how you're going to get ready to play this week?**

**NATE LASHLEY:** This week it's just been so crazy, basically I'm just going to be on the tee tomorrow. There's not going to be as much preparation as normal for a normal week of golf. After a win, you know, I'm going to be a little more relaxed. Obviously I don't have as much pressure on myself now to get inside that Top-125. But the change is really I went from trying to play well and making cuts and trying to finish inside the Top-25. Like last week I was thinking about getting a Top-10. Now I really want to be focused on competing to win each week. If I can continue to do that, it's just going to go up from there.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Before we let you go, Nate, I just want to ask you, a very unique situation obviously with you winning last, week, but also with Doc Redman finishing

runner-up, getting a lot of access, The Open Championship, special temporary membership.

Did you have a chance to converse with him at the end of the tournament? Do you know Doc very well? And his story kind of got overshadowed a little bit in a way with your victory, but still a huge achievement on his part. When you see him, how will that reaction be?

**NATE LASHLEY:** I haven't met him yet. I really don't know anything about him. I've heard about him before, he's a really good player obviously. It's a great story as well. I know he got in through the Monday. I think he won the Monday.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Yes, he did.

**NATE LASHLEY:** Getting in that way and finishing second, that's not an easy thing to do. Just qualifying on Monday qualifiers is difficult, and a lot of times once you qualify from that Monday qualifier, you're a little bit burnt out and then you've got to play in a golf tournament. So him playing like that, it's a great accomplishment.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** It was a pretty unique situation, and who knows, it may happen again this week at the 3M Open. Thanks for your time, thanks for joining us and good luck this week.

**NATE LASHLEY:** Thanks for having me.