

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
July 25, 2019



BUBBA WATSON (-5)

Q. Bubba, help me out here. I thought you drove the ball beautifully today, set up some short irons into greens, and your putting is good. What was your analysis of the round?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, everything's good. The whole thing of this whole year, this whole last I would say five years, it's all about the mental. The physical is easy to me, I have that. So for me it's all about mental, and I've been working hard. Gosh, we've seen other athletes come out with mental problems and different things, so this whole year I've been dealing with some stuff and just trying to get better at it. Today I was so calm and relaxed thinking how lucky I am to be here in Memphis and playing this tournament. So it's just one of those things that -- put in the old putter from last year and rolled the ball pretty good.

Q. The old putter from last year and a different method. We saw you arm lock for a while, this year as well. You're back really conventional now?

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, like I said, mental problems. So the putter I won three times with last year, I put it back in the bag this week and rolled it good. It felt like an old friend and everything worked out good.

Q. We won't go through all your birdies, but that birdie you made at the fifth was really special. That is a tough hole, the converted par 5.

BUBBA WATSON: Oh, yes, yes, it doglegs to the right a little bit. Yeah, it was 305 to the end of the bunker and so we tried -- he said, just anything you do, miss it right, even if it's in the trees. Going over old stats, because we don't play here, so he went over old stats and said, you need to miss it over to -- and I missed it by about five feet to the right. Then hit a beautiful 8-iron in there from about 190 and then made a solid putt; I'm guessing 15 feet to be safe.

You know, it was just, like I said, it was just a relaxing day, it was nice. Not too much wind, not too much heat, so it was just a beautiful walk on the golf course.

Q. Bubba, excellent start. If we can get some comments on your round.

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, it was really good. You know, I had to play good, it's Teddy's birthday. He turned 46 today. So it was nice getting out there, a little bit softer fairways, hit some fairways early and made some putts. When you make momentum putts -- last week I thought I hit the ball really nicely, but I missed give or take seven putts inside five feet, so I just never had any momentum and today I had some momentum putts that went in and

made the round fun.

Q. I heard you talking about hitting your putter. (Inaudible) Do you keep that close by in case you go back to it?

BUBBA WATSON: Oh, for sure, I keep all my clubs close by. I've got a golf room at the house where I've got multiple drivers where I know which one is what. But, you know, it's one of those things where they made me a putter in Phoenix and then we broke the head trying to adjust the loft. The material's really soft and it broke the head.

So then I said, hey, why don't I try this arm lock thing? So I tried it and finished fourth. So I was like, I just finished fourth, obviously it's putting, it wasn't ball-striking. So finally I just said, hey, let's -- at the British Open, I said, when you're driving up, can you just grab my putter? So I had the arm lock here and the putter I played with last year, won three times with last year, so I just put it back in the bag.

I've tried everything. I've tried without lines, I tried without lines on the club, lining up my ball, without lining up my ball, and today I just went back to what I've done my whole career, so just worked out good.

Q. You talked earlier about how important it is to feel like things are right mentally and you've got so much experience and muscle memory. Is the game that much more mental at this point in your career than it was when you were first on Tour or five years ago?

BUBBA WATSON: Well, yeah, because I've got more junk going on in my life. Car dealership, baseball team, apartment complex, candy shop, driving range, office buildings. I've got to make sure my RV gets to tournaments. I've got to make sure my kids are doing the right things at school. Got a beautiful wife that I've got to make happy. Just a lot more stuff going on.

I mean, when you're 24, trying to turn pro you, don't have all that junk yet. It's great junk, but it hinders the thing you want to do in a good way. I mean, I wouldn't trade it for the world. I'd get rid of my wins in a heartbeat. I'd work at a golf shop in a heartbeat if I had to to take care of my family and everything. So it's good junk, but it's a lot more junk than I had 20 years ago.

Q. What's your sense of what could be done out here with the weather being the way it is and some of the low scores that we've seen already?

BUBBA WATSON: You know, I think if you talk to every pro in the field, they were pumped when we saw the weather. The weather was coming down a little bit, but also no wind. You'll take some heat if there's no wind. Around here with no wind, you have a chance to hit the fairways. Softer fairways, no wind. So a little bit softer greens with no wind, you can't ask for a better situation unless you just want to stay at 75 degrees. So everything about it

is built for us to play good. Guys that shot over par today can come back and shoot lights out tomorrow, so nobody's out of it. With the weather like it is, you have a chance to birdie a few holes.

Q. Bubba, is your approach any different with a no-cut event?

BUBBA WATSON: There's no cut? Now I'm pumped. No, I'm just -- no, it means I get to practice for four days. My goal is on Sunday to have a chance with nine holes to go, and if your name's somewhere around that lead, you have a chance and that's what we're all striving to do, all trying to do. And then having no cut is obviously if you get off to a bad start, like any of these guys, if they get off to over par, they know they have three more days to come back. So three solid rounds, they're back in it.

Q. How are those Blue Wahoos doing?

BUBBA WATSON: They're doing good. It's the first year with the Twins, so it's really been fun learning their organization and getting to know some of the players.