

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**July 28, 2019**



**BROOKS KOEPKA (-16)**

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**NICK PARKER:** I would like to welcome in Brooks Koepka, the 2019 champion at the World Golf Championships FedEx St. Jude Invitational.

Brooks, just run us through what today was like and what it was like to get that first World Golf Championships victory and seventh career Tour victory.

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, it's incredible. I've always loved this place, so to play well here, it's incredible. To go for the past six years playing this golf course, it's a golf course that I feel like I know better than any other golf course on Tour, and to finally get the win here, it's special, especially now with it being a World Golf Championship.

**NICK PARKER:** And just talk to us, you not only won this golf tournament today, you locked up the Wyndham Rewards and likely the Aon Risk Reward Challenge barring a miracle from Alex Noren So just talk to us about a little \$4.75 million Sunday.

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, it's nice. I'm sure I can find a way to spend it.

No, it's incredible. To look at what I've done this year, just show consistency, try to take my game I guess to a new level and I've done that. To be up there in the FedExCup with a chance in Atlanta, that's incredible. It just shows the consistency all year.

But to win the Wyndham Rewards is incredible. It's something that I guess that's what you shoot for. You want to be No. 1, when the season's done and going into the Playoffs, and then to say Aon Risk Reward, it just comes from the consistency. It's incredible to look at how much you could have won this Sunday, or today, and to do it, it's been incredible.

**NICK PARKER:** You've done a ton of things over the years for St. Jude Children's Hospital and I know it's been a cause super special to your heart since you first started coming here. Just how special was that moment on 18 to win this tournament with the cause here and hearing Reid's name chanted there?

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, there's about a million things going through my head. When I went to that hospital I believe it was two years ago, maybe three, it changed my life. It's something I realized you can't take life for granted, you really have to enjoy it. I appreciate the little things because you see these kids and they're struggling for their lives. And everything their families have to sacrifice and what they're going through on a daily basis is nothing compared to what any trouble any of us will ever have.

So to go to that hospital and see these kids and see what they're going through, it gave me

a new perspective on life and just trying to enjoy it. Every time you come back here, you're reminded of that, especially when you walk off 18 and you're greeted by these kids and you're taking photos with them on 18 and you see they've always got a smile on their face and it's incredible that they do. I mean, it touches me. And I'm sure over the next few years with even more visits to the hospital, everything will change and hopefully build relationships with these kids and their families and stay in touch for years to come.

**NICK PARKER:** All right. Like to open it up to questions from the media.

**Q. Brooks, I know you get excited about any final round when you have the opportunity to win, but was it a little extra special today having the opportunity to go head to head with Rory?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah. I mean, I think it would have been a little bit -- I don't know, I know it's what everybody wanted and I think it would have been incredible if it would have been us going down 18 and somebody having to make a putt on the last. That would have been incredible for the fans, for everybody that showed up and I'm sure that's what everybody wanted. Rory didn't play the way he wanted to today, but still it's so much fun to watch him play. You kind of get glued watching him hit balls. I mean, it's mesmerizing watching him hit. You know, it's always nice to squeak out a victory over probably the best player right now.

**Q. Just as a follow-up, you seem to have been a little under the weather this week. Can you talk about a cold or something and how that might have impacted your play?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** It doesn't affect your play. It doesn't affect me hitting a golf ball. I mean, I don't feel good. I haven't felt good all week, but I'm not -- I don't want to make an excuse, I'm not trying to complain. Just get on with it. People go to work sick all the time.

**Q. Two things. How big was the putt for you on two just from maybe a confidence or momentum standpoint there, and then secondly, how would you describe your confidence level, I guess, with the way you're playing right now?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, I'm playing really good. Obviously the putt on two was big, but I hit three poor shots and one good one. All you need is the last one to be good, and then to make the putt, kind of build some momentum going -- having to make one on three and kind of make a few there on five and six. Kind of led the way there, saw the hole kind of open up.

I've been playing really good. Last week I played great. I putted good, I just didn't make anything and sometimes that happens. When you're burning lips and burning edges, sometimes all you can do is hit a good putt and kind of see where it goes from there. Sometimes they go in and sometimes they don't and you've just got to take it, deal with it and move on.

**Q. And Brooks, I know you don't want to make excuses, et cetera, but everyone was**

**going into a kind of mini meltdown before you turned up with 45 minutes to go. Was that staying out of the heat or anything like that?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I always take less time on Sunday. I'm already loose when I get to the golf course. I don't even need to hit balls. I've already stretched, I've already done everything. I don't know why everybody else is in a panic, I'm not. Everybody else is stressing. I'm sure you didn't see one ounce of stress on my face. I usually am out there maybe 55 minutes before a normal tee time, but on Sundays it's always like 45. I played for three straight days, it's hot, I don't feel that great, so I'm not going to go out there and waste my energy on the range when I can do it on the course.

**Q. Of course, part of your narrative has been that you've been playing really good in the massive events. This is another event you hadn't won. Is it good to sort of keep notching those off and ticking those off?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I couldn't hear the last part of it, sorry.

**Q. The narrative has been that you only won the big ones. You've now won a WGC as well. Is it good to knock off a different style of event as you go through this career that you're going through?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, it's always good anytime you can win a World Golf Championship. That's special. I was excited when I found out this was becoming a World Golf Championship. That's the whole goal is to win as many times as you can throughout the year and turn up for the big events and make sure you're in contention, especially if you're not going to win, and I feel like this year I've done a good job of that, been a lot more consistent. You know, the year's not done, I've still got a few things to finish off and hopefully it will go my way.

**Q. Brooks, a lot of guys hadn't played this tournament before just because of where it fell on the schedule, but you had been here a bunch in the past. How much do you think that experience on the course kind of helped going into the weekend?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, like I've said, this is the golf course that I feel like I know the best of any course on Tour. It's always -- I think it's a thinker's golf course. I probably don't get enough thought process going through my mind sometimes, just get up and hit it. It gets very routine. A lot of times it's drivers, but out here you've really got to position yourself off the tee depending on where the pin is.

I don't know if the mics pick it up or not, but you'll see a lot of times I'm on the tee asking my caddie where the pin is and that determines the club we're going to hit off the tee.

And you've got to hit the fairways out here. You're going to have a lot of wedges so you know you're going to have a good opportunity if you just hit the fairway.

But this place, I've always enjoyed it. Some of the best greens on Tour. And over those five or six years I've hit some wayward shots, so I kind of know where to miss it for each hole.

**Q. Brooks, you had the back-to-back birdies at five and six and opened a two-stroke lead. At that point, did you sense you were building some momentum?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah, I felt like I was. I birdied three, so I was pretty pleased. With two bogeys there early on in the week, wasn't exactly what I had in mind. To make a good par save at two and then birdied three, I knew I was hitting it good. I've been hitting it good for a couple weeks now.

And to kind of put that one in close on five, especially for some reason on five and six the wind seems to jump up and kind of come from -- both of them play into the wind and one's going one direction, the other one's going the other. It's always kind of tricky around that area of the golf course. To put one close there and make a putt was massive I thought at the time.

And then to back it up on six and make one, especially after hitting a good drive, finding the fairway, because that's probably one of the tougher tee shots for me. Finding that fairway was important. But to make that -- I hit a terrible wedge shot 20 feet right of it, and to make that putt I thought, okay, here we go, let's kind of keep this rolling into the turn and try to see if we can build that lead.

**Q. You won the regular season. How proud or how would you feel if you were able to get your first FedExCup on top of that in the next three weeks?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I haven't thought that far ahead, but if I did, that would be incredible. This run I'm on the last couple years has been so special. I've given myself some good chances coming down, I've just never played well in the Playoffs. I don't know what it is, whether it's just a little burnt out or what, but I just -- I haven't gotten it done. So this year, in a little better shape. Hopefully a week off will just kind of relax and take it easy and then get back in the swing of things come Monday.

**Q. And I don't know if you're aware of this, but DJ missed a four-footer on 16 today that if he had made, that million dollars would have gone to Jason Day. Will you buy him anything or give him a drink or something?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** No. He's good.

**Q. Brooks, along those lines, with the TOUR Championship, because of the change of format this year, how aware are you of going into that position first on the board, getting that stroke advantage, and is it on your mind?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Yeah. It's not on my mind, but it would be nice to have the stroke advantage. Like anything, you play good, good things are going to happen and you're going

to give yourself a better chance going into Atlanta if I play well these next two events. That's as simple as.

But even if you are a couple strokes back or whatever, you still need to go out there and play some good golf, it doesn't matter. That golf course is actually quite similar to this one. You know, these greens are bermuda greens, they're fast just like Atlanta, and Atlanta you've got to hit the fairways if you want a chance. As long as I can keep striking the ball the way I am and feel confident over the putter, I should have a good chance there.

**Q. Do you think the guys who start 10 shots back of you or whoever it is will feel like they have more chance than they have in the past?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I just think guys will be more aware of where they're at. It's kind of easy to understand what you need to do instead of looking at that leaderboard and, you know, if you make birdie here, you can go into the top-5 or be up there, but then some other guy makes birdie and then jumps you, so you never quite know where you're at. At least now you know you're six shots back and you know what you need to do. I think it's going to make the FedExCup and the Playoffs that much more exciting, more fun to watch.

**Q. Brooks, just curious how you plan on celebrating this victory?**

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** I'm just going to go home and relax, man. I'm tired after these last couple trips. Not physically, but mentally. Anytime you win, you're mentally grinding, and these going overseas and then coming back. It was nice to actually get back home at the beginning of this week and spend two days at home and come out Tuesday night. It kind of felt like a new week. Put the clubs away for two days and come out here and play. And next week I'm just going to go hang out at home with my dog and just chill by the pool. No golf for me.

**NICK PARKER:** Any more questions for Brooks? Perfect. Thank you. Congratulations, Brooks.

**BROOKS KOEPKA:** Thanks.