

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 24, 2021



TYRRELL HATTON

RACHEL NOBLE: I would like to welcome Tyrrell Hatton into the interview room here at the World Golf Championships-Workday Championship at The Concession.

Tyrrell, No. 5 in the world, making your first start on Tour since your win at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship in January. Just some comments on the state of your game and thoughts heading into this week.

TYRRELL HATTON: Well, obviously Abu Dhabi was a fantastic way to start the year. A couple of solid results after that, but excited to be out here in the States again playing this week. And yeah, hoping I can kind of keep that run of form going.

RACHEL NOBLE: Different venue for this tournament than last year. What are your thoughts on the course?

TYRRELL HATTON: The course seems good. It's in good shape. I think it will be interesting how they set it up with some of the pin positions and moving tees around, certainly on the par 3s. Yeah, I'll be interested to see what the scoring's like tomorrow. I feel like it's pretty hard to judge on that, but obviously just hoping I can play well.

Q. Hey, Tyrrell, I'm just curious how much you know about the concession at the 1969 Ryder Cup that inspired the name of this course, and kind of what you think of that and if that's something that you can see happening today and if it's something you would do given the opportunity?

TYRRELL HATTON: I'll be pretty honest and say I have absolutely no idea about any of that. I'm sorry that I can't answer your question any better.

Q. I'll give you a very quick description. Jack Nicklaus conceded a putt to Tony Jacklin that made the Ryder Cup a tie, where if he had missed the putt, it would have been a loss for what would have been the U.K. team at the time. I don't know if that gives you any clarity, but yeah, that was the situation.

TYRRELL HATTON: Okay.

Q. I appreciate it. Thanks anyway.

TYRRELL HATTON: Right.

Q. Got some bad news for you. I've just had a message from Pdraig Harrington that

says you're barred from the Ryder Cup team this year for not knowing that important piece of Ryder Cup trivia.

TYRRELL HATTON: My golf knowledge from the past is horrible.

Q. We'll have to get you a book. We'll send you something to read.

Just on the course this week, you mentioned, I've read in various places, that it is supposedly one of the toughest courses in Florida. Well, do you agree with that and what do you think, how difficult is it going to be this week?

TYRRELL HATTON: Well, I think it all kind of boils down to how the course is set up and the conditions that we're faced with. I think approach play is going to be pretty key this week. The greens are very severe in places. You certainly have to miss it in the right spots, but there are going to be periods throughout the week where you're going to miss it in the wrong spot and you're going to have a really tough job to get it up and down to save par. Yeah, I think it's probably going to be a tough week, but we'll just obviously see how it plays each day.

Q. Just a quick follow-up. Have you had any particular holes in practice where you've left yourself in the wrong spot and ended up three- or four-putting or left yourself in a really tricky situation?

TYRRELL HATTON: No, I seem to be normally pretty good in practice rounds because they put the pins in the middle of the greens, and then Thursday it becomes a bit of a shock when it's three off the right and you're left with a 25-yard pitch shot when you've short-sided yourself.

No, in practice -- well, I've not actually played -- hit it that well, but I guess it doesn't really concern me. I'll be a bit more into it tomorrow and for the rest of the week.

Q. Can you just let us know where you were when you heard the Tiger news and what your immediate reaction to that was?

TYRRELL HATTON: I was actually just going through a warm-up in the physio truck here. Initial thoughts were obviously quite concerning to see that and I think the golf world was pretty shocked in general. I think we all obviously wish him a speedy recovery and it's a tough time for him and his family.

Q. Have you had the chance to have many one-on-one interactions with Tiger in your career so far?

TYRRELL HATTON: No, I've only played with Tiger I think once and I think that was 2019 at this tournament, at the WGC Mexico, on a Saturday. I haven't spent much time with Tiger at all.

Q. Tyrrell, can you speak to how, regarding Tiger, what you think he's done for the game and what influence he had perhaps on you, because certainly he's had a lot of influence on younger golfers getting into the game. I'm not sure what he had on you, if any, but just speak to me about what you've seen him do to the game and where he's taken it.

TYRRELL HATTON: Well, for me personally, Tiger Woods was obviously an idol. How he kind of burst onto the scene and the things that he did and what he's gone on to achieve is incredible. So yeah, he was definitely someone that I looked up to growing up and obviously gave me that sort of buzz to want to be out on Tour. I think what he's done for golf kind of speaks for itself, really.

Q. Just as a follow, he has not played a lot of events over the last couple years, so we're getting to that point where obviously he's 45 and whatnot, but can you imagine what it will be like when he's just not out there at all? Hopefully he comes back from this, but what the Tour will be like? Because there's certainly a different buzz to every tournament that he plays in and I'm sure that you've felt that.

TYRRELL HATTON: Yeah, definitely. Before COVID and we have crowds and stuff, there's certainly a different roar when Tiger holes a putt or does something special. I would say it's probably a thought that no one wants to think about at the moment.

RACHEL NOBLE: Looks like that's it for questions, Tyrrell. Appreciate the time and good luck this week.

TYRRELL HATTON: Thank you.