

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**February 26, 2021**



**BILLY HORSCHEL ( -10)**

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**Q. Billy Horschel sitting at 10 under par after his second consecutive 67. Yesterday we were chatting, you said you really like this golf course because it's a thinking man's course. What does that mean?**

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** What that means in layman's terms is that when you're hitting a shot off the tee or even into a green, more or less into a green, you've got to think about where you're trying to land the ball on the green, where you're trying to miss it on the right side of the pin.

Too many times we play, and it's not the Tour's fault, we play courses where you don't have to worry about your misses. If you miss a green in one spot, you can get it up and down. Here, if you miss it in the wrong spot or if you miss it in the wrong spot on the green, you've got a tough two-putt or you've got a really tough up-and-down.

It's almost like Augusta, these greens are almost like Augusta in the sense that you've got to be smart of where you're trying to put the ball on the green or on the proper side of the hole to have a chance to at least make birdie, hopefully make an easy par if you don't make birdie.

**Q. Not only did you shoot a second consecutive 67, your front side was the exact same scorecard yesterday and today. You did birdie three holes on the back nine that you did not birdie yesterday, so those are the only three that are different from the other 15 that you had yesterday on the scorecard. So how would you compare the two days?**

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** I think yesterday was, I felt, easier. I hit it a little bit better. Today was a little bit of struggle with the swing, but I did a really good job of managing my misses. That's where I say a thinking man's course, you've got to know if you're going to play for a miss; not that we play for misses, you've got to be on the right side of the hole and I did a fairly good job of that today. So I've got to go work on just tightening up the swing a little bit, get that feel I've had for the last few days. And excited for this weekend. It's nice to be back in Florida and it's nice to have a chance going into the weekend.

**Q. I've got two for you and they're unrelated. There was a lot of talk heading into the week that this place would eat you guys up a little bit. Why do you think the scores have been maybe better than anticipated?**

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** I think -- I don't think they're better than anticipated. I mean, I think they're where I thought they would be. I think our -- I have to give it to our rules staff, they've

done a really good job of setting up the golf course, of not making us look foolish.

I had breakfast this morning with Gary Young and we were talking about a few other things and then we started talking about this course a little bit. He's like, this course is a test in itself, you don't have to put stupid hole locations, get too tight with the hole locations and you don't have to get the greens too fast or too firm to make it challenging.

I think from what he told me, and I don't know if I'm supposed to say this, the superintendent here was wanting the greens to be a little bit quicker, he thought they plateaued and Gary's like, no, they're fine where they are, we don't need to get them 13 or 13-plus because then you limit your hole locations here. There's so much slope on these greens. It's like Augusta, there's only a few hole locations on each green and so you've got to be careful of the green speeds.

**Q. Secondly, one is better than zero obviously, but when it comes to fans, how many fans do you have to have for it to make a difference in terms of like how much juice it feels like on the tournament, how much adrenaline you feel as a player?**

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** Yeah, I think we've got five hundred here and it helps to have a few, but I think I've started feeling that juice, feeling that focus I get from the fans because the fans, I love them. They've always carried me and I feed off of them.

And they may make a smart-ass remark and I make a smart-ass remark right back to them. They love when I get give it back to them. But I think Scottsdale when we had 5,000, we started feeling that energy in the crowd again. So I think to me, it's at least a couple thousand.

It's nice the next few weeks it looks like we're going to have somewhere around 10,000 at Bay Hill and players, so it's going to feel a little bit more normal on the golf course.

**Q. What's the best smart ass remark you've ever retorted with?**

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** Oh, I think one -- there's been many of them. I think the one that I can remember the most was Scottsdale a couple years ago, a guy was yelling at me from on the hill after I hit my tee shot on 13 tee and he's with his buddies and he said, "Hey, Billy, unblock me on Twitter, unblock me, come on, Billy, unblock me," and I just responded back with, "You shouldn't have been a dumb ass, so sorry, you're not getting unblocked." All his buddies just laughed and cracked up about it.

**Q. What about the opposite, what's the best one anybody ever said to you?**

**BILLY HORSCHEL:** There's been a lot that I just can't come back with. They get me, I'm like, hey, you've got me, I got nothing to come back. It probably has to do with something with the Ralph Lauren pants I've worn in the past years because some of them are, let me just say, they've been out there a little bit. But there's just some that they say something

about them and I've got nothing in return. I give them a thumbs-up, say you got me.