

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
February 27, 2021



BROOKS KOEPKA (-13)

Q. Brooks, you woke up this morning, you seem to have a bit of neck pain. Did you kind of know going into today that it might be a little bit of a battle out there?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, I did. It's been a battle every day for the past month and a half. Started in Palm Springs it was bugging me. Today was probably the worst it's been in a while, but whatever. gave a few shots back to the field. Kind of loosened up a little bit more, but not quite where I want.

Q. Looked like midway through your opening nine holes it started to feel a little bit better, you hit some really good shots, you just couldn't capitalize on the putts. When you're struggling like that, is it tough to kind of get that momentum going when it hasn't been going well the first six, seven holes?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, you know, it was interesting. I don't know if the greens were a bit slower today or what, but I just couldn't get a putt to the hole. Felt like speed was off. I hit it, make a couple more and yeah, just came out of a few of them because that's just me.

Q. Not in the final group tomorrow, but still just two back. Any kind of game plan tomorrow besides just putting the pedal down?

BROOKS KOEPKA: I want to feel good, that would be nice.

Q. Your neck was obviously bothering you early. How is it now, how are you dealing with it? Tell us about it.

BROOKS KOEPKA: It sucks, doesn't feel any better. Just one of those things, I've had it for a long time, so I'm ready for an off week next week.

Q. So you'll get stretched out in the morning and hopefully it's just a matter of you hope it's good, right?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, go get some treatment here now and get worked on in the morning, and from there just hope for the best. Hopefully it loosens up. Have to go through a whole bottle of Aleve and Advil just trying to make it for two days. It's annoying because I spotted a few shots just to the field, but it is what it is.

Q. On a positive note, though, you were seven shots back with about six holes to play, now you're two shots back, so you closed the gap.

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, it was nice to roll that one in on 17. It's one of those things where you just keep going, you never know what's going to happen, and hopefully tomorrow I feel a little better.

Q. You had a lot of folks out there rooting for you, a lot of folks. That was the biggest gallery on the course. That had to make you feel really pumped?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, it was nice to see them. They drove in last night, had dinner with us for Rickie's birthday. Staying with me now. It's nice to see them. They don't get to watch too much, but when they do, it's fun.

Q. I couldn't hear what you said about the neck. I know you've been dealing with it for a couple months now, right?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, just over a month and a half pretty much. Today was probably one of the worst days maybe. I woke up and I couldn't even look 90 degrees to the left or right. It's just about I tried everything, sleeping different, I've been worked on. I don't wish it upon anybody, it's not fun. I never had one, this is the first time I've ever had a stiff neck, but it sucks.

Q. Do you know what it originated from?

BROOKS KOEPKA: No. I know when I got out to San Diego right around the third of January, I got there the third and by about the fifth it just stiffened up and it's been like that ever since. I don't know, I don't even know how long that is, probably longer than a month and a half. But it is what it is. Just try to manage it as much as I can.

Q. Does it get better throughout the course of the round?

BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, I was laughing with Rickie, I might come out early tomorrow because the first 40 balls I hit are -- it sucks. It's actually quite painful because it's on the left and right, then my traps are tight and shoulders and scaps. It just goes down the chain. It's kind of like a knife going into your left side of my neck the first couple. I couldn't extend today for whatever reason. The right side's been better than the left, but today the right was tight also.

Q. In terms of your round, I'm assuming you feel a lot better now than you did maybe an hour, hour and a half ago. How would you -- how do you feel about your position I guess heading into tomorrow?

BROOKS KOEPKA: I mean, I'm not very happy. I'm annoyed that I feel the way I do. Spotting a few shots early on isn't fun. I spotted a few early on in the week just because of it and it's not fun to be chasing. Just need to feel good tomorrow.

Q. With the difficulty of this golf course, the fact there's been so many big numbers

this week, is this not the worst course to actually chase from behind in just because anything can happen?

BROOKS KOEPKA: There's quite a few hazards. Some of the hazards, if you don't -- just depending on where they put the tee sometimes, you might have to re-tee it. You've just got to be cautious of it and make sure you pick a good line and make a good swing.