

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
February 28, 2021

BILLY HORSCHER (-15)



Q. Billy, what are your feelings about how things played out on Sunday?

BILLY HORSCHER: Yeah, you know, I felt like got off to a really good start making birdie at No. 3 and birdie at 5. I just didn't put the ball in the right positions in that middle stretch. Nine and 10 were very gettable pins, and to miss the fairways in the bunkers just made it a little bit tougher, and I just saw Collin hitting good shots and made birdies from those.

And then I think 13, it's the first drive this week I really tried to hit hard and I think it just threw my rhythm off the next few holes with some irons. So I had a battle it coming in a little bit. The swing felt just a touch off. But I did a really good job of grinding it out. I just wish I could have those last six holes back. 13 in, I wish I could have those holes back and maybe try to put a little pressure on Collin because I just didn't do a very good job of that.

Q. What would you think about the idea of another tournament coming back to this course?

BILLY HORSCHER: I think this is a great golf course. I've always been a big fan of a course that, as I say, you can't fake it. Maybe you can fake it one or two days, but you can't fake it for four days. And this is one of those courses. You've got to hit the ball great every day, you got to hit it solid. You've got to have control of your golf ball from tee to green. You have to have control of distance, direction. You've got to think about where you're hitting the shots into the greens or maybe even off tees. I think this is a great golf course. I think our rules staff did an unbelievable job this week of setting it up. I think they could have -- I think the superintendent would have loved to have seen the greens be a little firmer, a little faster. I'm sure he wasn't happy 18 under won, but it's such a fine line of maybe a foot faster or a little bit firmer and some of these pin locations become pretty stupid, and we look pretty stupid. And you don't want to make us look stupid when we hit good golf shots. You've seen when that happens at a certain major and we don't need to do that on the PGA Tour.

Q. You had a front row seat to it today. What do you think of Collin's play?

BILLY HORSCHER: Collin's got an unbelievable game. His ball striking, iron play since he stepped out on Tour has been top-5, top-10 on tour, no doubt about it. I think he seemed to figure out his putting. He's got this new claw/saw putting stroke and his putting stroke looks unbelievably good. He made a lot of big putts. I think that big putt on No. 11 was huge for him, and he made that big birdie putt at No. 12. I think that's a good sign. I think the young guys -- I think, as I've said for a year or plus now, he's the one that everyone's got to look out for. Yeah, he doesn't hit it 320 plus, but I can't say it's overrated, it's helpful out here, but if you can't hit it straight and put it in the fairway, then it doesn't give you any advantage.

And he does a really good job of playing within himself. And he's a great iron player, which I think is a -- everyone understands how big that is, but I think -- I don't think people understand how great being an iron player out here is. Tiger did that for years. Everyone talked about his distance, but he was the best iron player, best wedge player for a decade-plus, and that's one of the reasons why he was so successful.

Q. Billy, what did it mean to you to show your support for Tiger by just your sign on your hat?

BILLY HORSCHEL: I don't have red and black in my repertoire of clothes, at least I don't think I do, so there was -- I knew that actually the outfit I wore yesterday was supposed to be worn today and I sort of switched it up because this is the closest thing I have to having some red.

You know, I just put T-Dub on the side of my hat, black and red, to show my support. I would have loved to have worn black and red. I thought about maybe calling my sponsors to see if maybe I could wear some Nike clothes just for one day, T-Dub's clothes.

He means so much to the game of golf. He means so much to more than the game of golf. He's such a great person. He's such a big family man. He loves his kids. Since he's come back, we rarely ever talk about his golf game. Whenever I talk to him, it's always about his kids right away and then maybe talk about golf.

So it's really cool to see everyone support him and it's -- I'm just happy he's still here on this planet. We lost a legend in Kobe a little over a year ago, so to lose someone else like that would have been devastating, especially for the game of golf. He's so much more than the game of golf, as I said. His foundation and what he does for so many other people in this world is tremendous. So I was happy, just happy he's still here on the planet, and I pray that his recovery is smooth and he can get to spend time with his kids and get back to being able to run around with his kids.

Q. He's a guy that you've come to count as a friend in the last few years since he's come back really?

BILLY HORSCHEL: Yeah, Tiger's been great to me since 2009 when I turned pro. He gave me a spot into his event at Congressional, and since that day he's always been gracious to me. And as I've been more out on Tour and gotten to know him more, guys are a little afraid to go up and talk to him. Obviously you guys know that's not me. So he's been great to me and shown support to me, which means a lot to me.

Q. Kind of playing off what you just said about your personality, a lot of guys, if they're in a tight last group, they'll walk off the tee if they hit a shot, but you were really nice. You were saying "Good shot" to Collin all the time and joking with him. I laughed at your, "Hey, you hit it forward" on the 18th tee. Kind of asking you about your approach to that, seems you're kind of who you are no matter what?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: People say praise, like the way that I always say, Hey, great putt, good shot. Obviously I say it so they can hear it. It's who I am. I mean, if a guy hit a good shot. Yes, I'm rooting against him, but I'm a fan of golf and I've always been a fan of golf. So if someone does something good, I'm going to say, great shot, great putt, great up-and-down. It's just who I am.

We're out here battling against each other, but it doesn't mean we have to be rude or can't show some, I guess, support or at least say something simple as good putt or great shot. So it's who I am. I mean, I'm sure certain guys may not like to play with me because sometimes I talk a little too much, and I've gotten older and I understood sometimes I need to temper that down a little bit. I'm never going to change, I'm always going to show support to my fellow playing partners, doesn't matter who they are.

Q. Speaking of getting older, I would assume a Billy Horschel 10 years ago, I'm sure you'll have your regrets and everything tonight, but you seem like a cooler, calmer presence right now than you might have been in this situation in 2014 or something like that?

BILLY HORSCHTEL: Yeah, exactly. I mean, I've been out here for 12, 13 years. It's been a cool job. It's been what I wanted to do. It's time I start learning from my experiences so I can be more consistent out here on Tour.

And that was a big thing for me this year and I think I'm doing a really good job of that. I think if I can continue to do a good job of that, I think there's something special for me left in the last decade or so of my PGA TOUR career, because I don't know how long I'm going to play. We'll see what the next 10 years has in store for me.