



LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN

HALEY PETERSON: We would like to welcome Louis Oosthuizen here to the media room at the 3M Open.

Louis, you're going to be making your tournament debut. From what you've been able to see, what are your thoughts and impressions here at the course so far?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: Yeah, really good golf course. Charl, he played last year and I asked him about the golf course and yeah, he said it's one of his favorite weeks. Really nice track. Played nine holes yesterday, played the back nine this morning and really strong back nine, really good golf course. Yeah, I'm looking forward to the week. Great condition and should be good.

HALEY PETERSON: I have one more question for you before I turn it over to the media. You're near the top of the board for the Aon Risk-Reward Challenge and this week the Aon Risk-Reward Challenge hole is the 596 par-5 18th hole here at TPC Twin Cities. Do you have a strategy when approaching 18 for this week?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: As long as it's better than today. I made a 6 today, so hopefully it's going to be a little better. I think it's all on the tee shot really. If you hit your tee shot, good tee shot down the middle, you've got a decision to make, and it's just a good par 5. You need to hit two good shots, so get it to the green or be very strategic in where you want to lay it up.

Q. Louis, it's not like you to not talk after a round of golf. Has it been difficult to get a handle on the final round at Royal St. George's, to move on from that?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: Yeah. It was, I mean, obviously very disappointing the way I played the stretch of holes there in the middle of the round, or just not do what I should have done the front nine and really gave it a good push on the back nine. In the end I was just too far behind and needed to force things and just couldn't make up the shots.

Yeah, it's sort of you don't want to always talk about close again, finishing second, finishing third, so I wasn't really -- I wasn't really up for that conversation right there. So it was disappointing. I mean, walking off the golf course -- Collin played the way you should play to win a major, especially on a Sunday. He didn't make many mistakes and when he did make a mistake, he made unbelievable up-and-downs for pars. It was just frustrating because I knew my game was definitely there to have a good solid day. Weather was as good as you can get at The Open, so it was just a bit of frustration and disappointment really. Yeah, just I was fine on Monday, though.

Q. So is it good to be able to play right away again?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: Yeah. I mean, look, they made it a lot easier than a normal travel from the U.K. We were on the charter on Sunday night, arrived 2:00 a.m. here Monday morning, go have a nice rest and go straight into the next tournament. I think I'm glad that I entered in this event to sort of get back in there and play and not really sit around at home and thinking about the disappointing Sunday last week. I'm happy to be out here, see the golf course and looking forward to this week.

Q. Louis, hey, you talked about 18 there at TPC Twin Cities. What are maybe some other holes that you've seen out there that can maybe give you a little bit of a test and could be challenging?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: I think coming down -- even just starting off the 10th hole, the 10th hole was quite a good test today. Oh, no, I'm on the wrong hole, I think. Not the 10th, sorry. The 11th, I think. Yeah, there's a few holes. I think if they move the tee up on 16 and you have the par-3 17 and then you have the 18th, so a lot of shots can be made up on the last three holes. I think it can be a very exciting last three holes if you're one or two behind and you really play well or you really play good on those three holes.

But the rest of the golf course is good. There's a few par 4s on the front as well where you need to hit strong tee shots to have a mid iron in, and if you don't do that, you're going to be far back to greens that demands a really good second shot. So I thought it was a really good golf course.

Q. And you mentioned it's kind of good to play right after kind of maybe a disappointing finish for you at The Open. What's your mental state like and how do you kind of regroup mentally after competing in a major like last week?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: I mean, you're tired, you're a little bit more tired. I'm not doing much this week on the range. I was doing a little bit of work on putting yesterday, but not much work on the range this week. I'll do a bit of work with my physio, and other than that, just resting up and waiting for tomorrow to start and just try and get the mind as fresh as I can. I know the game is there, I'm swinging well and I'm putting nicely, so I just need to not make that many thinking errors. That happens when you come off a major week. I think you're a little bit sort of out there with the few decisions you make, but it's the one thing I'm trying to avoid this week.

Q. Hey, Louis, I'm wondering if you can just elaborate --

(Unstable live feed.)

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: It's a lot of golf for the way I am in my career and what I know I'm capable of with my body to do. I need to manage it quite good and it was not an easy

decision. I was very keen on going to the Olympics, but it wasn't the easiest -- they didn't really make it easy for us. There was no way of me working with my physio there that week. He couldn't go, he couldn't end up going, so that made my decision a little bit easier. And then scheduling. WGC the week after is a massive week for competing in the FedExCup, and then you have the whole FedExCup left, and on top of that, trying to figure out how I'm going to get three more events up for Race to Dubai. At the end of the day, to me majors, four majors and world events are the events that I grew up playing for and the events that I really want to focus on.

Q. Good morning, Louis. Sometimes you guys can be stingy in giving yourself enough credit. Years from now when you look back at this major run, T2, 2 and T3, what do you think the takeaway will be?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: Yeah, look, I work sort of always to have my game in the best shape that I can for when a major comes around and it took me a long time to sort of try and find the recipe that works for me. I would look back at all the finishes that I had in majors and the way I played them to be really proud of what I achieved and, you know, being able to perform at major levels is all -- what it's all about.

But yeah, being that close, you want the second one. You also look back and look at it as you came that close and you couldn't get it. But I'll still have hopefully quite a few majors in me and hopefully I can get another one under the belt.

Q. Is it something you can channel more into something that's motivating more so than not getting a trophy and being disappointed?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: Yeah, it's -- you will be disappointed, but I try not to think of it too much afterwards. You know, assess everything and still look back at it was a good week, it was a great week and let's go on, what can I do better on the next one. Definitely motivate yourself to go the next one out there and then know that you can perform in majors and trying to go one better. I'll take more motivation out of it than being disappointed.

Q. Hey, Louis. A lot of the (indiscernible) when that's the case in your experience, what is that a product of?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: Sorry? Say that again?

Q. A lot of top players who played this tournament in the first two years of it, the event, have come back to play it again. I guess I'm wondering, in your experience, what is that a product of when guys keep coming back to tournaments?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: I think the experience they had. One would be golf course; if you really like the golf course, it's always one you would look at to coming back. And then just the experience you had at the event. You know, I've got my family here this week and Hollis has done good job with setting everything up for us. We're going to have a nice week

together and that's what you want, especially when family's traveling with. If you can have a nice time off the golf course as well the week, you're always looking forward to coming back.

As a player, I think number one, does the golf course suit you, do you like the track and do you play good there, then that's the main decision. So far what I've seen in the practice round, I really enjoy the golf course.

Q. What's it like to be a couple months shy of your 39th birthday and playing the best golf of your career?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: It feels pretty good.

Q. Is that ever something you would have predicted, like this would kind of be the prime?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: No, no, I think I can still do better. You can always improve. You know, I'm just doing what I've been doing the last three, four years really, not really doing anything different. I think it's just the work is starting to pay off and I'm just having a good time on the golf course and trying to enjoy my golf as much as I can.

Q. Hi, Louis. I think we've had something like seven majors in 11 months due to the changing schedule due to the Coronavirus pandemic. After a roll like that is it a shame to have to wait until April now for another major, especially the form you're in, or is it nice to have a breather?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: It is nice to have a breather. It's great if you, like at all those majors and you felt like your game was really good and you're playing well, that's sort of a good luck on your behalf or lucky on your behalf that you're playing well in all these majors in a row. But it is nice to take a bit of a breather from that, but also it's not really a big breather with all the tournaments coming up, FedExCup around the corner and a lot of golf still left.

Q. Louis, I've got a goofy one for you. Do you know that the Jolly Green Giant is about 90 miles south of us, and do you get any type of good mojo playing in farm country?

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: I did not know that, and I love playing in farm country. So hopefully, you know, hopefully I have a bit of luck today or this week on my side.

HALEY PETERSON: That's all the questions we have. Thank you, Louis, for taking the time for joining us and best of luck this week.