

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
July 25, 2021



CAMERON CHAMP (-15)

HALEY PETERSON: We would like to welcome our 2021 3M Open champion, Cameron Champ, to the media room.

Congratulations. Nice piece of hardware you have next to you.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yes, thank you very much. I appreciate it.

HALEY PETERSON: Walk us through the emotions starting the final round. Just an exciting day overall capturing your third victory. Tell us what you're feeling.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, I was just in a very good place. My game was trending in the right direction. The previous two days I felt like it was just kind of stress-free golf. Obviously I feel like I left a lot out there, but I knew Sunday if I just played the same way and minimized the mistakes, which I did today, I might have a chance. Obviously coming down today, the course played not as easy as it did Thursday, Friday. Obviously the wind conditions, it kind of started to firm up some and I just dug down and just tried to finish it off.

Q. Cameron, I know you've talked about this, but the measures you have taken of late to try to find the proper balance between being inside and outside the ropes, how beneficial did that prove to be this week?

CAMERON CHAMP: Huge. I think it proved even at John Deere. I think -- like I said, Collin made a great statement last week about putting your ego to the side and realizing what the actual issues are versus results.

I had to do the same thing and I've struggled since January, and it hasn't really been as much of technique, it's just been more of myself. And again, you know, we're still young. I just turned 26. Obviously I've done a lot and I've had some success, but at the end of the day I still have to figure out myself and how I'm going to manage both of those sides.

After Detroit I just took a step back and said, you know what, this is enough, I can't keep going on this way, I'm not enjoying the game, it's not fun, and in order for me to enjoy the game and for it to be fun, I have to be true to myself and who I truly am as a person. That's kind of how I've been on the course. You know, this week I really didn't get mad at results. If I did get mad, it was more so what I was thinking before that shot and what caused me to hit that shot. So it's definitely for me a way better perspective as far as how to get around the course and also, like I said, dealing with personal life and golf.

Q. Are you a scoreboard watcher, and when things were tightening up and then when

you got the two-shot lead, does this new approach help?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah. I mean, I definitely like knowing where I'm at. I feel like it gives me more energy, and I knew 16 was a big hole because that's one of the easiest holes of the day and to make that putt, that just kind of just really relaxed me. Obviously 17 again was not playing easy at all into that wind where that pin was. Again, it's just -- Chad kept saying all day, just stick to the process, stick to the process, stick to the process. That's just all we focused on.

Today I can say I really only didn't maybe trust a shot one time versus yesterday it kind of happened a few times, I got frustrated. But again, it's more so of my commitment to the shot and not where it went or where it ended up.

Q. Congratulations Cameron. Where were you physically, your whereabouts there, when you made that birdie at 16? What were you feeling?

CAMERON CHAMP: I was definitely dehydrated. Obviously I feel a lot better now. I'm not sure why I was because I drank a lot of water, but obviously the Gatorade definitely helped I think keep me going. Obviously the moment as well, you have so much adrenaline going and trying to control that. 14, 15 I really started to notice it, I was like wow, every time I get up I get a little lightheaded whenever I was putting my ball down on the marker. On 16 I was given a Gatorade and that kind of, like I said, kind of kept me going throughout the round.

Q. And it's amazing how quickly this game can turn when you look at where you were in the spring and summer missing cuts. I know you're not surprised to win again, but are you surprised to win this soon given where you were?

CAMERON CHAMP: No, not at all. Like I said, it's not so much technique. Everybody learns and everybody matures at different stages in their lives. Again, I've always said and it's just kind of how I am, I'm always a late learner or late bloomer and I'm trying to be the opposite of that. You know, now I'm married, now I have responsibilities, soon I want to start a family with my wife. Again, for me it's more so realizing what I want to do in the game of golf and then who I want to be at home. It's a balance you have to find, and if you don't, it can really haunt you and it can cause a lot of issues.

So I just feel like the last two months I've been in a lot better head space and kind of realizing what is truly important to me and what is not. I've just been sticking to it.

Q. When you talk about having more fun, obviously winning's always going to be more fun, but was there a specific moment during that tougher stretch of tournaments where you said, man, this is not good, I really need to change, or was it just kind of things compounding over time?

CAMERON CHAMP: I think it was things compounding over time. Like not realizing what the actual issues are and kind of, you know, masking them, if that makes any sense. I would

say around June in Detroit, again like I said, was kind of my main like okay, this is absolutely enough. Again, the way I was acting, the way I was going about myself and talking to myself, and I don't want to be perceived that way because again when I go home, I'm the complete opposite. I never get frustrated at all, it takes a lot for me to get frustrated, and I'm always going.

Again, I just had to take a step back. You know what, I love this game, it's given me so much, I'm going to give it my all, but again I need to be who I am and not, you know, worry about outside noise or what people may think or this and that. So again, it's a maturity stage, which everybody has at different times, and I just think for me right now I'm just in a very good spot with my own understanding as far as that goes.

Q. That's great. And then based off your career number of, you know, top-10s or times in contention, you won a lot. Why are you so good at winning?

CAMERON CHAMP: I mean, even today on 14 we were talking about playing kind of the rest of the season and kind of how we're going about it. I was telling Chad, there's no way we're losing this. I feel like whenever I get in those moments, I'm super comfortable and super in the zone and it feels like it's mine to take. It's not so much mine to lose, I feel like it's mine to take and I feel that's how it was today.

Even when I started feeling bad, it was like I'm putting so good, I'm putting so good, I've just got give myself some looks and just not make a big mistake. Same on 17, it was kind of a tweener number, obviously water's short. I just felt like let's just hit it to the back of the green. I'm sure there wasn't that many birdies there today with that pin and that wind, but you make a par and you just call it a day. Again, there's just more sticking to that.

Q. I read, I think it was an earlier interview, something about your wife and your grandfather on your glove and you kept looking at it. Their names are on the glove?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yes, yes.

Q. And so you kept looking down and just thinking of them? And what was the thought that would come into your head as you saw these names?

CAMERON CHAMP: Just relaxation and realizing that I have a lot to look forward to outside the game. Obviously my grandfather is kind of my hero, my who I want to be in life. Obviously my wife is my everything. She's what helps me out here on Tour want to continue to succeed and be successful, and then also when I'm home, she's my best friend and I just love her to death and everything that she gives me.

Again, when I look at that, it was more so just a comfort factor, just realizing there's a lot more to that game than most people think. We have our own lives back at home and for me that was just a big balance I had to figure out that took me a while, but I feel like now I'm in a better head space with that and I'm able to play my best golf.

Q. When you say true to yourself, and you said it a couple times, I'm assuming that means that the patience you have at home, the serenity maybe that you feel and so forth, you want to take that to the course?

CAMERON CHAMP: Correct, yes. Again, when I'm home, it takes a lot for me to get frustrated. I don't get frustrated very often. I'm always a giver and always doing more for others than myself. That's just how I have to be out here. It's proven, like I said, look at my stats. It hasn't been good besides the last two events. It's kind of like I just took a complete 180 in just how I'm waking up every morning and how I'm reacting to certain things and adjusting to certain things.

Q. Last thing very quickly, you putted so well this week. Was there any type of adjustment, whether mental, physical, technique-wise, fundamentals, anything at all that turned it around?

CAMERON CHAMP: Well, my coach and I, John Graham, we've always been working on the same things, but nothing -- again, I just think I'm in a better place in life. That's exactly how it's been, even like I said, when I was missing all those cuts, everything was still in line. Technique-wise or even swing-wise, everything was as good as it's ever been. But for me it's always been, you know, in between the ears. That's all it was.

Again, I keep saying process, process, process, but that's all I've been focusing on. Now when I play I don't have a single swing thought, we just pick our spot, pick the shot we want to hit and that's it. I'm just trying to keep it as simple as I can and it's been working, so I'm going to continue to do that and see where it takes.

Q. So a couple quick questions. On 18 either after your drive or after your shot, your first punch there, did you ever let any negative thoughts seep in? And then the second question would be when you did make that final putt, walking off the green you kind of covered your head with your hat for a good five, 10 seconds. What were you thinking? What was going through your mind then?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, that shot when we were trying to figure out where to go, I was laughing with Chaddo. I don't know if you all saw it on the camera, but I'm like, well, I guess I'm always trying to make it interesting, especially with that lie. I did hit a good shot, but I thought it was in the fairway.

Obviously that changed things a lot because if I just got out in the fairway I would have probably hit a 9-iron on the green, 8-iron on the green and just had an easy two-putt, but obviously that changed. And when I saw that lie, I was like, there's no way, we're going to have to just punch out, give me a good number and obviously make par, but make bogey at worst.

Yeah, there really was nothing negative. I knew with that lie you either catch it right or you

don't. Again, I go based on -- based on how my process is, you can only control what you can control. With that lie, the ball was sitting up probably like four inches in that grass, so I really had to clip it right or I'd go right under it or I'd top it, and with how heavy that grass was, I had to give it some power, but obviously not enough because the water's on the other side. Obviously I will say I will take that shot.

And then, yeah, walking off, it was just emotion. I was just -- it's just I know this is the player I can be and again it's allowing myself to be that player. It has nothing to do with putting stats or driving stats or iron stats, none of that. It has to do with me allowing myself to be that player. Like I said again, I'm just in a lot better space with everything and enjoying myself and enjoying myself more at home. Again, for me, I'm the happiest I've ever been.

Q. Cameron just real quick, what was the club you hit with that second shot?

CAMERON CHAMP: It was a 9-iron. Very in between pitching wedge and 9, but I didn't want pitching wedge to get up and obviously hit that tree, but I was a little hesitant just because I had to get through a good foot and a half of very thick rough. Chaddo said this is the club and I agreed with him. It wasn't a pitching wedge, it wasn't an 8-iron. I just had to just trust it and hopefully it came out the right way and it did, and obviously if it went another six inches, obviously I could have hit my third on the green. Like I said, that shot could have gone many different ways, so I will take where it ended up.

Q. And lastly, you talk about allowing yourself to be that player.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah.

Q. Who is that player? What do you see -- you've shown you can close out Tour events. What do you see is your own potential in this game?

CAMERON CHAMP: I mean, we can never say what our true potential is. We may have our goals and ideas of what that may be, but again, that's where it goes back to on balancing life and golf. For me, home life is a lot more important to me than golf. It's managing both those sides. Yes, I love golf and it's given me everything, I love it to death, but again, it's managing both of those. Can you say your question again? I kind of got off track.

Q. When you talk about allowing yourself to be that player, you've played at a high level, you've won Tour events. I'm just asking how you see your own potential.

CAMERON CHAMP: I think my own potential, I can do great things in this game. Again, for me, it's more so -- it's not so much self awards or wanting to be famous or wanting to be this or that. I love the game, I love being out here, I love seeing all the guys, I love practicing, obviously I love winning, but again it's just more of the camaraderie and everybody associated with the Tour. It's just a blast.

For me, I don't really have any set expectations on if I'm going to win this many times or I'm

going to have this many top-10s. Obviously I have my goals, but I've always set kind of smaller goals to allow me to get to the bigger ones. Again, really all my goals right now have to do with just myself and I think, like I said, that will allow me to be the player I can be one day. I feel like I'm starting to trend in that right direction.

HALEY PETERSON: That concludes today's press conference. As always, we appreciate you taking the time to talk to us and enjoy your victory.

CAMERON CHAMP: Thank you.