

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
July 25, 2021

DYLAN WU (-27)



Q. Dylan, congratulations on your first win. Can you just talk about initial emotions, going to the PGA TOUR?

DYLAN WU: Yeah, I don't think it's hit me yet, but just super happy. The last two years, I mean, playing 40 events out here, I felt like I played well enough last year to get a card but COVID kind of -- there's a lot worse things in life with COVID affecting a lot of people. Luckily I was still able to play professional golf, but not getting a PGA TOUR card last year was really -- it kind of hurt.

This year was just kind of a struggle. I didn't really start off well. I was outside the top-25 and I knew my game the last couple weeks has been going in the right direction. For all the hard work to finally pay off this week, playing in the final group for the first time, having the lead for the first time going into the final round, and to do it at a place where you could shoot really, really low and make a lot of birdies always feels great, too. Really, really happy.

Q. I'm sure there's nothing worse than having a good lead and then a two-and-a-half-hour rain delay to make you think about it.

DYLAN WU: Yeah, of course. I was 5 under through nine playing well. Hit the fairway on 10 and it was still perfect outside. I was about to hit my shot and I just hear just the horn blow. Looking at the radar, it wasn't really raining out here, but yeah, two and a half hours is basically just freezing the kicker for two and a half hours.

Guys are telling me like, yeah, I'm not going to be able to play today. I'm like, I really want to play, I don't want the round to be canceled. No, just another obstacle I had to battle through, and luckily the weather turned out fine the rest of the day. It's definitely harder when you have a delay because it kind of stalls the momentum. Yeah, luckily played well enough on the back nine to get it done.

Q. We talked about it, but a couple years ago kind of your break through was Springfield, Illinois. You top-10'd here last year, now you get your first win. What is it about Springfields that really --

DYLAN WU: I don't know. This event is an event the last -- I mean, including this week, the last two years I probably had my best results at. My last top-10 was here a year ago. Coming into this week, I'm like, wow, that's been a long time since I had a top-10.

Yeah, no, I mean, something about Springfields are great. Luckily there's a lot of them, probably the most named city in the country. I really like it here. We had dinner at Top of the

Rock on Tuesday for my birthday. It was also my birthday on Tuesday, so to get it done during my birthday week is pretty cool. Yeah, just super awesome here.

Q. Just talk about having your brother be a caddie and then just the start that you got off to, you guys kind of working together and got off to a hot start.

DYLAN WU: Yeah, my brother's been caddying for me ever since I played in the U.S. Open, so it's been I think four weeks. He hasn't missed the cut and he's been doing a good job. I think yesterday when we shot 9, that was his lowest. He had like three 7-under-par rounds as a caddie before.

He's been great. For me, having him on the bag just gave me a little more confidence in my own ability to call my own shots and play my own game. He's kind of just there for support and to keep it chill and keep it fun while I'm playing just because golf is really stressful, playing these tournaments is really stressful, but he keeps it calm. Always great to have Jeremy on the bag. To have him here this week and to have him win as a caddie in only a few starts is pretty awesome, so he's been great.

Q. What did you do in the rain delay?

DYLAN WU: Let's see, what did I do? Went inside. I mean, it was about lunchtime, but when you're playing well and you have the lead and you have nerves and stuff like that, you don't really want to eat.

We went inside. I just hung out with a few buddies. One of the guys was Max McGreevy, who won this last year. We were talking inside. A lot of my buddies were just saying the round's probably going to get canceled, and I don't want to hear this because I have a five-shot lead right now, I don't want to go into a playoff or something like that.

Just kept it chill. Didn't really want to check scores. Talked to a few friends from other tours, watched some Olympics and tried to keep my mind off golf just because my mind is on golf a lot. Two and a half hours actually went pretty quickly by. Yeah, we definitely felt more nervous when I went back out than when I was sitting on 10 fairway before the horn blew. Really proud that I finished well after the delay.

Q. Before you tapped in here on 18, you kind of kept looking over at the leaderboard. Whenever you look over there you see your name at the top. What was going through your mind?

DYLAN WU: Yeah, I mean, I was telling my brother just once I hit it on the green, I'm like, it's okay if I three-putt, I have a two-shot lead here. Don't four-putt. Even if I have three or four feet, I'm just going to make sure the next one's good.

No, I'm just really trying to savor the moment, making sure that my name's still at the top there and there isn't a glitch that maybe Taylor's at 26 under or something like that.

Yeah, just really savoring the moment. I haven't won out here before and I'm kind of in awe. There's nothing really to say. There's definitely been moments before that I've had a chance to win that I haven't closed it out and to finally do it was awesome.

Q. You and Max when you cross paths, do you ask about 2-2?

DYLAN WU: We were joking inside, he was telling me, I think he was like on 17 with two holes left, he had 135. He was like, yeah, if I hole out there and maybe make a 2 in the end, maybe can catch you and you can make a couple double bogeys. That's what I was saying to him when I was crossing 12 and he was finishing 18.

All these young guys out here, we played a lot of college golf together, a lot of amateur golf, we're all rooting for each other. Whenever somebody young, similar age plays well, whether it's here or the PGA TOUR, it just gives us confidence that we played with them when we were 15 or 16 and we beat them before. For us to get to the PGA TOUR, we're just kind of cheering each other on.

Q. What was the key club in the bag this week?

DYLAN WU: The key club in the bag this week, I have to say my putter probably. Felt like in Springfield, Illinois, the scores were similar to this, I just didn't make anything. This week I definitely made a few more putts. Not like amazing putting if I go through my stats, but I felt like I really grinded out there with my putting when I had hard putts and just stayed really steady. Winning on a course like this when the scores are low, there's not much wind, the greens are soft, the ball's going far, it's a shootout, so you kind of need your putter to cooperate to go low. Honestly, everything in the bag was really good. Hit a lot of greens this week. Only had a few times where I was in trouble and scraped pars out of those, so it was just a good solid week overall.

Q. Did you know that you tied the record low for the tournament?

DYLAN WU: I didn't know that. I mean, I asked Max when I was inside what he shot last year and he shot 21. I was at 25 playing and I think I was on 12 or 13 and I look at the leaderboard on the par 3 and I'm at 26 and I see Taylor Moore's at 23. I'm like, where'd this come from? Usually when you're in the final group, the guys you're playing with, playing with Alex, me and him tied, that's who you're trying to focus on. But on a course like this where the scores can be super low on a nice day with good weather, anybody from the back of pack can win. I think Max said he came back from 5 last year to win.

Yeah, 27 under, definitely really low. At the beginning of the week I kind of told myself the goal is 24, 25. I'm glad I got to 27 because 25 would have been in a playoff. Yeah, really happy about the week.

Q. Reflecting back on that call you got to get into Lincoln Land Memorial Health two

years ago, going full circle now and going to the PGA TOUR, what are your memories of that call?

DYLAN WU: I remember I played the first two events in Canada again and it was an off week. Luckily, living in Arizona actually helped instead of living in Chicago. I was going to fly to Canada on Tuesday instead of Monday and I got the call Monday afternoon and my agent was saying good golf translates.

So I was playing well at the time and luckily I called my teammate and took a redeye to Chicago. I upgraded to first class on that flight, so it's kind of a good sign. Then played really well. Honestly, when I played there, I shot 65-63 on the weekend and I think I had a two-shot lead at the time and I thought I kind of won. I made a birdie on the last hole and then lost in the third playoff hole. Learned a lot from it. That one I felt like I almost was more clutch than almost here just because I came back and shot 63 in my second-ever Korn Ferry Tour event, so I kind of felt like that tournament got stolen from me a little bit.

Finally, the past year and a half with COVID, I remember I think I was in the top-5 when COVID happened. I was like, oh, maybe a few events are going to get canceled, I'm only going to get closer to getting my card. Then not having anybody graduate kind of sucked. I mean, I was still in a good spot at the end of last season. Just kind of struggled at the beginning of the year, didn't score well. Didn't feel like my game was in that far of a place, but couldn't score well.

I mean, you hear a lot of guys out here, the guys are really good, whether they're on the PGA TOUR. I played in the U.S. Open, it was weird, I was more nervous this week here than all week at the U.S. Open and I'm playing in front of bigger crowds, huge venue and playing against the best players in the world. It shows that golf at every level nowadays is really, really good.