



TALOR GOOCH (-13)

Q. I know I asked you this last week so I'm just going to try it again, anything about this fall that feels different given how you've played?

TALOR GOOCH: It's just comfortable, man. Like I said, for the last month I keep getting asked this. Obviously I'm playing well, but I think my game has made a turn for some good stuff in some ways. And I've been working my butt off for years, but especially the last six, eight months with driving the ball and working my butt off with putting. For my game, if I can get in the fairway, as simple as it sounds, if I can get in the fairway, it's just a matter of how many putts I'm going to make. Hopefully we can keep making putts and see if we can do some good this weekend.

Q. Is there a part of you that doesn't want to take the break in December?

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah, absolutely, but also the bigger part of me is excited for a break. It's been a long year. Hopefully have one good weekend to send us off right.

Q. When do you feel you started feeling comfortable out here?

TALOR GOOCH: I mean, year five on Tour for me, we were talking about it today on a hole where I was hitting like a chip 7-iron and it's like I've seen this shot before out here and I've made the mistake before out here. So just being out here enough, you start to understand like days like today, I'm comfortable with it because I know what to expect because I've seen it before. You just can't put a value on comfort and how much that will do for you. So being out here, like I said, for season five for me, there's just a lot of comfort.

Q. And what do you think has held you back from winning so far?

TALOR GOOCH: Man, just timing. I mean, guys like Justin Thomas and Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth and all these guys that have won early and won often, they've kind of put an expectation on a different level than what I think the average golfer understands out here. I know I'm going to win, I know I'm going to compete a lot and it's just a matter of when it's my time.

I think in Mayakoba when I had been either final group or near the final group in the last few years, I think that's the first time I had shot over par. I think my second year on Tour at Palm Springs I shot a bogey-free like 63 or 64 when I was one or two groups back from the final group. Last year at Shadow I was final group, shot a bogey-free 67. It's like I've been in that position enough where I've played really well, and then all of a sudden you have one off day and people kind of start thinking about -- it's just the game, man. There's times where it's

going to go your way and there's times where it's not. Like I said, I'm going to keep working, I'm going to keep getting ready so when it's my time, I'm going to take it and run with it.

Q. I was just given a stat, the putt you made on 7, 66 feet, that was the longest in your career. What did you see in that?

TALOR GOOCH: I saw hopefully a two-putt and it popped in. No, it was -- we didn't even think I knocked it on the green, got up there and thought it was going to be just a little short and it's on. It's a tough green. Any 66-footer, you're just trying to two-putt, right, but my speed's been pretty good this week and I actually made about a 50-footer yesterday, so I've been comfortable on these greens from long distance. You're always stealing one when you get those to drop though.

Q. What did you hit in on that hole?

TALOR GOOCH: Hybrid.

Q. What was the wind doing?

TALOR GOOCH: It was blowing really hard. No, it was off the left and a little bit of help, I think.

Q. Looks like your pattern the last couple years is you played really well at this stretch, and of course last year you kind of carried that up to the PLAYERS Championship.

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah.

Q. That's where all your top-10s seemed to happen. Do you have a plan to kind of extend that success a little bit longer or do you have maybe a reason why you played so well so early in the season?

TALOR GOOCH: Well, so my first year I had appendicitis in the middle of the season. Second year I was working in the Tour trailer and a band snapped and I was out for two months with a bruised thumb, and that was the week of Arnold Palmer. So I've had in the first couple years just some bad luck, things have happened in the middle of the season. I think that stat might be a little bit skewed because I haven't been healthy but for a COVID year and, which we didn't hardly play anything normal, and then last summer I had a baby. So I still haven't had a full 365 day year on Tour where it's just like normalcy. Maybe some normalcy will help with that.

Q. How much did the final round of THE PLAYERS do for your confidence last year?

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah, it was good. Like I said, I've built a lot of confidence through the years where I've been maybe not in the final group but around contention and in that top-10,

top-15 area. I've played a lot of really good golf. Yeah, it's just another page in the book that we're writing and we're going to keep writing the book and eventually one of those chapters is going to have a win in it.

Q. Is there anything different about your mindset coming into the last tournament of the year? Obviously you want to win, but talking Wednesday, are you thinking differently, like last one?

TALOR GOOCH: Yeah, I mean, of course you want to -- you want to play well anytime of the season, but especially the last event of the year, you want to send it off right, you know? But there's also that part of you that's, just like I said earlier, we're all tired, we're all excited to get a little bit of a break, so we're hopeful that we can just play well before we can get a break finally.

Q. But obviously not hard for you to keep the focus even though you see the finish line?

TALOR GOOCH: Oh, no, no, when the lights turn on when they say your name on the first hole, it's game time, you're ready to roll.

Q. Regardless of how this week pans out, what will you do coming up?

TALOR GOOCH: I'll try to take two or three weeks off, I'll try not to touch the clubs. I know my buddies will drag me out to the course a couple times, drink a couple beers, hang out, but I won't get any real work in until the middle of December. I think I'm going out to Scottsdale to meet with my coach the 15th, 16th, 17th, sometime around then, so until then I'll try to shut it down.

Q. As someone who grew up in windy conditions, how do you describe today?

TALOR GOOCH: It was what you expect out here. It was comfortable, it was a grind. You know there's going to be some tough stuff, there's going to be a lot of uncomfortable shots. Like I said, being here a few times when it's been like this, you know what to expect. And like you said, growing up in Oklahoma, you just, you feel like you have a little bit of advantage when it comes to the windy conditions.

Q. Completely different topic, I've heard some things about players whose equipment people have told them that the shortage has the possibility of affecting them at some point. Have you heard anything like that?

TALOR GOOCH: I haven't. Fortunately I'm not a tinkerer. I don't change stuff much. I have the same 3-wood and hybrid that I've had for like five or six years, I don't change grips, I just don't change much. So Callaway's probably talking to some of the other guys who probably flip around a little bit more than me.

Q. Name of your coach?

TALOR GOOCH: Boyd Summerhays.