

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**November 18, 2022**

**HARRY HIGGS (-12)**



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**Q. I think you shot a 62 in Mexico. What did you learn about following up a good round that you might be able to use tomorrow?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** Man, I was going to just kind of get out of here short and quick, but now you're asking -- it's a great question.

**Q. Go have lunch, forget it.**

**HARRY HIGGS:** No, no, no. I thought I did a really good job in Mexico. I had a couple -- Saturday and Sunday I had a couple mud balls and then just didn't quite get as comfortable as I was even Thursday and Friday on a few tee shots.

But I really felt like I handled it well. I didn't start, as I've talked before, kind of crying and whining that things aren't going my way and I'm hitting poor shots. No one cares if you're hitting poor shots really other than me, my family and my brother who's my caddie, right? There's no need to just scream and yell and be audible with it. You can hit poor shots, it's OK.

I did a very good job of being patient. I didn't do an awesome job throughout the weekend on every shot, which you're never probably going to do it on every shot of getting comfortable and basically just telling myself this is what I want to have happen.

So in that, that would be the goal for the next two days. Stay patient, for sure, which always gets harder and harder and harder. The better you do, the harder it is.

I felt like I was getting a little impatient to finish out the back nine today even, but stay patient and then just go ahead and take -- I don't want to take too long, but take just another little half second. OK, this is what I'm going to make this golf ball do.

So again, in the long-winded way that I like to describe things, that would be what I learned and what I'll take into the next couple days.

**Q. What has this fall season done for your confidence?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** Yeah, I mean, I still -- a 32nd in Mexico was good for me.

I need to stop and give a thank-you to Keith Mitchell, who's a great friend of mine. With Worldwide Technologies, they're a sponsor of his, he pretty much pushed it through that I would be playing that event on a sponsor exemption.



And I would like to continue to play the golf that I'm playing now. It doesn't happen forever, you're going to have poor days and whatnot.

But truly, a friend like that reaching out, getting me into that event, I feel like it's really close to having changed my career. Just what I learned there about myself, what I put into play, how I executed it has led me to now this point through two days. Hopefully you fast forward another couple days and it's a win that obviously changes my life and my career.

I'm not really going to worry about that. I'm going to do my best to worry about what I've got to do hole by hole, kind of hour by hour even between now and when I tee off tomorrow, but a good friend like that doing what he did without me even asking could very well have changed my career.

**Q. That's deep.**

**HARRY HIGGS:** Yeah. I mean, I love the man. He can be hard to be around at times as I'm sure I can, too, but that was -- he did not need to do that and he did. Good friend, great friend.

**Q. I don't mean to keep this on the topic of Mayakoba, but there was so much public response to what you said about spiraling up. How aware are you of the massive public response that there was and does that mean anything to you?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** It means a lot. Gosh, I try to be unaware, but it's so hard this day and age. Thank God my phone is still in my golf bag, right? I'll turn it on, it will buzz, buzz, buzz, everybody will be so thrilled about the two days.

For me and my mom, dad and girlfriend are here, my brother obviously, we understand. I mean, everybody does understand, but they want to support you so it's great. And even folks that I don't know, right? And I've had people reach out that they don't play golf, just life in general, which that is really, really cool because we get really insulated here and it's just I'm going to perform playing golf. Even I get into it sometimes too where all I care about is how good I am here, not good anywhere else.

More friends. Yeah, I'm sure they listened.

But having people reach out and say that had helped them in their everyday lives kind of reminds you that, OK, well, I need to do that when I leave the golf course, too. Like I need to be a good boyfriend, a good son, a good brother, which I'm sure I could always be better.

The golf side is very good right now. I'm trying to continue to get better and better and better outside of golf too because that will just kind of take care of pretty much everything.

**Q. Have you been putting pretty good or was today out of the blue?**



**HARRY HIGGS:** No, I've been putting really good.

**Q. And was there a turning point in that part of the game at any point in the past?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** No, it's usually pretty good. I feel like I have very good touch and I feel like I read the greens really well, so that should be pretty easy.

The only poor putt I hit today was kind of the first one that I had that was slow and I just kind of laughed. I left it like two feet right and three feet short from like 18 feet. I just kind of laughed at myself. I was like I really tried to get myself to hit that one hard, just wasn't able to do it.

So maybe after hopefully lunch I'll go try to hit some uphill putts and make sure I get them to the hole. I see them well, I'm starting the ball online, it's kind of just the simple things. I have fun with my myself over the ball sometimes, like OK, let's see if I make this one in the middle or the left center or right center. Most of the time I'm pretty darn good at picking it out, but they all pretty much went in the middle today.

**Q. Are these greens as pure as you've seen them in a while?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** Absolutely, they are phenomenal.

**Q. I think 33 of 36 greens. Just talk about how the ball-striking is going as well.**

**HARRY HIGGS:** I feel like it could be better because I always feel like it could be better. Yesterday I got so cold and just couldn't move so we were just like playing a slapshot for the last nine holes. Fortunately, a lot of the slapshots went to where I could continue to play from.

I have a very clear idea and kind of thought about what I want it to feel like and what that feel will then produce, which is awesome, haven't had that in a long time. I'd say it's about 30 percent of the time that I actually want to produce what I want to feel, but in at least thinking and committing to that, it keeps everything a little tighter, right? I'm not having these big misses, I'm striking them all well enough that it's going to cover that bunker or whatever it may be.

And again, 33 of 36, the way that I'm putting, I just have to get it somewhere on the green and it's probably going to come close to going in the hole. Hopefully close to going in the hole or in the hole with good speed so we don't have to stress with wind.

You can get some kind of iffy four-footers here downhill, cross-grain, like leave them close to the hole when they miss, which I did a good job of today.

Yeah, the only stinking bogey I made was yesterday when I hit one too hard and then kind of



misread -- I think I probably missed like a three-footer. So yeah, I'm putting great, but I would really like one of them back.

**Q. Can you give any specific examples of how Keith can be a handful?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** You know Keith, right? Do we need to get into specifics?

Keith -- and we're all victim to it. Keith is one of my greatest friends and I am in debt to Keith, which is a hard person to be in debt to because he has -- has and likes a lot of fancy things and I'm not really that fancy of a guy.

I owe Keith something. I will come up with something and it will be not as fancy as he probably would like, but hopefully something heartfelt and thoughtful.

Keith is almost always right and even when we joke, like he is usually right. You like him to be wrong every once in a while, but he is usually pretty right.

Yeah, I had to stop, I wished I had done it in Mayakoba and thanked him even Friday for kind of that day that I had felt like I really turned a corner and I just got talking about obviously the spiral up and the way that I'm trying to act on the golf course and be off the golf course that I missed thanking him. I thanked him in person myself obviously, but I wanted to get it on the internet that Keith Mitchell is an all-time guy.

**Q. Another one of your buddies, Joel Dahmen, right in the hunt here, right on your tail. He's talked about fear, the fear of losing his job has been a big factor in how he's playing. You've been in that situation. What is that like to kind of have the job if not gone, at least change in a way --**

**HARRY HIGGS:** Yeah.

**Q. -- and how have you handled that?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** I would have said I handled it pretty poorly for the majority of, I guess it's the last season. Last season and this year.

Joel and I, Joel and I have stayed together quite a bit. We've talked about it even some and we've more so talked about it when things were going well for us. It's in the back of your mind, it always is for almost everybody except for some of the top players in the world obviously.

But it can motivate you to work a little bit harder, make better decisions so that you don't -- the goal is to not really have to worry about it come March or as early as possible, right? I mean, you want to kind of be set in stone.

Now, with the way things are going to change for us, you're going to have to make another



push probably in the summer to get into the Playoffs and probably into some big really important events that are very, very lucrative.

We've talked about it quite a bit. It's miserable, it sucks, but it's part of what we have to do. You have to deal with it. It's OK to be fearful, it's OK to feel the pressure. It's just kind of how you react to it, right? Whether you kind of want to run and hide in the corner.

Like I wouldn't say I necessarily ran and hid in the corner, but I was very down on myself and like I'm better than this, this is not -- I should be playing better, I feel like I'm close, maybe just on the outside but close to being one of the top players in the world. You think that way and you don't -- you work. I mean, I worked plenty hard to try to get myself out of it, but didn't necessarily believe and like make the correct decisions while I was actually at my job to improve and get out of the, oh, my gosh I might lose my job, I might lose my privileges out here.

So yeah, in a way it's awful, it's one of the most miserable things that any of us can go through. I had times where it was like, man, I know I'm going to play some this year based on kind of how I did last year, but not as much and not as often as I'd like. You start thinking like is this what I want to do, this is so stressful, versus my first two years was like, oh, this is easy. I probably still should have done a little better than I did, but I'm very comfortable keeping my job and getting into some bigger events.

You have all those thoughts throughout a year, especially me kind of throughout the summer, and you just come to the conclusion that no, I am really, really good at this, I'm going to continue it work at this, maybe just work a little smarter and with better intent.

And I'm going to at some point get out of this rut, which I felt like I was really close to doing in Bermuda and then played a poor day Friday. You know, a couple weeks ago in Mexico it felt like I was at least -- the tires were spinning the other way, I was going to get out of it.

Come here and sure, I could do a lot of things better than I did this week so far, but I think I'm tied for first place, so you can take it easy, man. Like it's OK to hit a few poor shots and smile a little bit and joke. I had great playing partners, we had a great time. The talking kind of started to wane a little bit as I'm up near the lead on the last nine holes I played today. It was like OK, snap out of that, man. Like smile, hit some good shots, look up, interact with people. It's hard to do all the time. It's going to be hard to do the next few days, but the way that I've -- I'm skilled enough right now and I'm confident enough right now that if I can do a bit of those things I would imagine I have a chance to win on Sunday, which is awesome.

**Q. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you want to go have lunch now?**

**HARRY HIGGS:** Ten, but I kind of sneaky think they might have already pulled it away. I bet I can find something to eat. It'll be a little hard to find. These 9:00 to 11:00 tee times here kind of (indiscernible) lunch.

