

GREAT EXUMA CLASSIC

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

January 18, 2023



CHANDLER PHILLIPS (-14)

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: It's been great. I mean, hard to have a bad week in the Bahamas. I played one practice round, that's all I needed to see just because you start playing too many, you start finding stuff you don't need to find.

But other than that, I mean, I just played really solid, didn't do anything like really crazy or anything, kept the ball in play and yeah, that's about it.

Q. Was there anything specific about this course that you like that just kind of fit your game?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: A lot of wedges, yeah. I mean, it's not typically like very far, this course. You hit a bunch of like 3-woods. I smoked 3-wood around this place all week, that's all I hit really. But other than that, it's just I've always played good like on like oceanic kind of stuff. I don't know, the Paspalum maybe, I don't know. Yeah, I've always played fairly well on it. I don't know, just it was good.

Q. You were joking earlier about how you were always so close to getting a win but you just kind of struggled to get it done. So what was it today that clicked, that allowed you to be champion?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: Beats me, I don't know. I mean, I kept doing what I was doing and didn't really try to force anything. I made a bad bogey on 17. Honestly, I hadn't seen the scoreboard, I didn't look at it, I didn't know where I was, but I was really thinking that here we go again, like just screwed myself again.

Other than that, yeah, it's just pretty solid playing. I don't know.

Q. Do you think it's like sunk in yet that you --

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: No, no. It will probably sink in after my first beer after we do all these interviews and pictures.

Q. So someone had asked about a conversation that you had with Dean Choate about your work ethic that you had with him just back when you were a junior player. Just how much do you look back on that conversation, and tell me a little bit about the conversation.

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: Yeah, no. Me and Dean, we worked for a long time and I mean, I haven't seen anybody since him. I mean, we worked so much, like when we did work together, we worked so much that now if I have a problem, it's usually one thing and I can just kind of go off of that. I just stick to that and try not to make it too complicated.

Q. Can you go into a little bit more detail about what you did to -- I mean, three seasons now, what work did you put in? What specifically were you focusing on to get to where you are now?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: I don't think it was so much work, I think it was more of like getting into the right stuff like club-wise. I don't spin the ball at all and I went to like a really weak shaft on everything other than my 7-wood just because if I don't, it's going to balloon every time. But ever since I like switched to my Ping irons and the Ping driver, it's been a difference. Like I mean, it really has.

And then from there it really wasn't -- like I didn't do anything different, it was just kind of getting in the right stuff where I could actually hold greens when it's downwind and everything like that. It just, the ball kind of just got closer to the flag and that's never bad.

Q. Did you ever picture this happening for yourself at all, especially in your first start of the season?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: No, no. I mean, I was -- yeah, you want to come into the week wanting to win, like that's the goal obviously, but I would have been perfectly fine with like a top-20.

I tell you this, I started practicing a week before this tournament, yeah. After Finals, after Finals, including my practice round here, that was my fifth round of 18 holes.

I duck hunt, like I hunt. After -- after Finals, I did not touch a club for, yeah, until about a week ago or week and a half ago.

Q. Do you credit some of the win to that relaxed mentality about practice, like you don't put a lot of pressure on yourself?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: No, I don't. That's why I figured out when I first came, like when I first turned pro three years ago, I was oh, I've got to do this, I've got to do that. When I just stop caring about the outcome and just go and play each tournament round like another round of golf, that's kind of when I finally started playing well.

Q. So if you had the choice to play a round of golf or go duck hunting, which one would you choose?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: Duck hunting. I've been talking to my buddies every night. They're duck hunting at home and I'm like, God, I'm playing good. I ain't gonna lie, I'd rather be there

duck hunting.

Q. Does your golf fund your duck hunts?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: Oh, yeah, absolutely. This helped, this helped, yeah. No, me and my buddies, we leave every Wednesday, Thursday, somewhere around there and come back on Sundays or Mondays.

Q. So if you had a chance in a pro hunting career, would you do that?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: Don't ask me that, don't ask me. I don't know. Now, I don't know. Golf seems pretty good now, but no, it's all a joke and everything. It's good for me to like -- the end of October until middle of January the last like five years, I don't touch a club. Like when I saw -- like when I knew -- when I finished Finals and I knew that the season was going to start this week like in the middle of January, I was like, I have to miss out on the last three weeks of duck season.

Q. Last question here, just kind of walk me through what it felt like to have Braden on your bag this week, a close friend out there supporting you throughout?

CHANDLER PHILLIPS: Yeah, I mean, we're -- he's caddied for me one other time and it was at Dallas, my next best now finish, yeah, yeah. We talked about just the first four and I was going to like find somebody else because he still plays. I might have to switch that up now, he might have to caddie for the year. We'll just see how the next three weeks go.