

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 15, 2024



WILL ZALATORIS (-5)

Q. Will, what was the feeling like? You went out there on 29 in the front. Did you feel like you were pretty much back to the guy who was winning on the PGA TOUR in Memphis?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah. It's been a weird kind of transition in terms of my off-weeks where I take a lot of time off but I'm doing just an hour or two, I'm playing a little bit less. So I feel fresh. That's the thing that I think is really good.

It's kind of, it's a really good feeling, you know, like I know a lot of guys talk about their team and whatnot, but talking to Troy, my full swing coach last night, I kind of was not hitting it great in the practice round and in the pro-am. Then Landon, my chiro, kind of something a little bit in my hit to loosen it up, and Josh, my short game coach, is here this week kind of confirmed it. Kind of a full team effort.

But yeah, the front side today was nice because not having a ton of wind and then the back side going back into the wind for five holes, even though the scores are 7 under's leading and a bunch of guys are 5 plus under, I think I hit gap wedge on 18 from like 162, that just shows you how windy it is.

Q. Gary was just up there and he was saying his comeback was a little slower than he anticipated. You've kind of been trending a little bit, your finishes have been getting a little bit better and better, but in general would you say it's gone about how you expected?

WILL ZALATORIS: I think the extra time helped off. You know, I could have come back in six months, but I took eight. It really gave me time to kind of really think about things. I mean, saying I finished top-20 at Hero is not really the start I was looking for, finishing last by nine.

No, I think I'm trending every week. I'm learning something new every week about my game and where I'm at and the changes that I've made and just getting used to it. I used to play the ball in the back of my stance a bunch and now I'm playing it forward and it helps me be a little more horizontal as opposed to so vertical, which put a bunch of issues obviously on my back.

Q. Where do you feel like you're in that process of feeling comfortable with the changes you made in your full swing?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, it's still a conscious effort. I think I got to get a couple more rounds under my belt to really just kind of let it freewheel. I know it's kind of weird to say that



after shooting 29 on the front, but I think it's still kind of having to really think about what I'm doing behind the ball and then get over it and just let it happen. Hopefully put myself in contention this weekend and that's just going to get me that much more comfortable.

Q. You said you gave yourself a little more time to get back and to think about things. What did you think about? What did you learn, I guess, in the extra time that you gave yourself?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah. So I switched to the broomstick putter, which was a huge change. I couldn't hit balls basically for about four and a half months so I was able to kind of tinker around with that for a while, thinking about the comeback last year, where obviously that was very unsuccessful.

I think sticking to my roots of who I am as a ball-striker but just simplifying everything, not getting caught up in, you know, pressure forces and all that stuff. It's just what feels comfortable. Then from there, let's see if we can add speed to it.

So I think that really is probably part of the reason why, you know, like in Bahamas I didn't -- was just kind of seeing where I was at. As that progressed over the last few weeks, it's just each week has been better and better and better. Like I said, I've just got to keep playing. Plan on playing next week and then from there it's just whatever I can get into.

Q. No pain right now?

WILL ZALATORIS: No, none. Just very tired from the wind.

Q. Where are you at in terms of comfort with the broomstick at this point?

WILL ZALATORIS: Yeah, I feel great with it. Again, it's just so simple. I mean, it took me probably three to four months at home to actually kind of figure out how I want to use it. The big thing for me was playing in the wind was really hard with it just because it's such a long lever.

I think after Hawaii, where I really struggled in the wind, I knew I needed to spend time really practicing that in the wind. From there, I mean, it's just every putt's a straight putt now where regardless if it goes three, four, five feet past, just stick to the spot that I'm going to and accept where it goes from there.

Q. And just curious, there's different types of broomsticks but you chose that brand, the lie angle, balance. What was it about that particular broomstick putter that worked for you?

WILL ZALATORIS: I had a couple buddies tell me about it after watching Lucas go on a tear, and how Adam does it is just so clean looking. I love how it just swings itself. I basically just have to rock my shoulders as opposed to anything else.



I've tried a few others, but we're getting closer. I think with the guy that I got, I'm making however many birdies I made today, just keep doing what we're doing.

