

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
**March 28, 2024**



**BEAU HOSSLER (-4)**

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**Q. Beau, how would you kind of characterize the round today?**

**BEAU HOSSLER:** I played well. I hit a lot of really good shots, I made some putts. It was still a bit of a stressful round. I made a couple bad decisions on the back nine that I'm not pleased with. All in all, this is definitely a step in the right direction. My game's not been great the last month or so, so really glad to play a good round on what I think is a pretty difficult golf course.

**Q. What may have been -- is there one kind of thing you've been kind of struggling with recently?**

**BEAU HOSSLER:** Just everything's not been particularly sharp. At PLAYERS I didn't hit it great. Valspar I didn't play great, also was on kind of the bad draw I thought. That's the way it goes.

This stretch for me in the past has kind of been, just got to figure out what's going on. Usually I play well on the west coast. Florida has been kind of a bit of a challenge for me. I was glad to get here and not be playing on bermudagrass again. I think the course is significantly better with the overseed this time of year. It definitely probably plays longer, but the lies are way better and in the collection areas, it's playable. Before it was like incredibly difficult with the dormant kind of grainy lies that you would get before.

**Q. To that point, how did you find the golf course being the first group out?**

**BEAU HOSSLER:** It was nice except for the first hole. I think it was 5:30 when I whiffed a drive and had 270 in, so that wasn't great. Like I said, it's playing really long, the golf course is long. It's in great condition, but you're definitely going to wear out your 7- to 4-iron this week probably more than maybe any other week on Tour and fortunately today I hit those clubs really well. Most of the time with a 5-iron if you can put it on the green you've done well, so I did that today. Like I said, a couple bad decisions, but all in all the execution was pretty darn good.

**Q. I covered you in an AJGA tournament at The Woodlands and then four months later you're leading the U.S. Open. Are you kind of surprised with your game? I know it's so tough to win out here, but you haven't gotten that first PGA TOUR win.**

**BEAU HOSSLER:** Yeah, I get that question a lot. Am I surprised? No. I feel like that would be discounting how difficult it is. It's hard, it's a hard sport. Throughout all the other guys, it's just hard on yourself and beating the golf course every week.



No, I hope to learn and do better. I've done some good stuff, but I would like to be a lot more consistent and give myself chances to win on the big stage here because I know that I'm capable of doing it.

Yeah, I'm a bit, you know, frustrated that I haven't, but at the same time I know that it's difficult to do and I try and stay patient with myself and just try and get a little bit better.

**Q. You positioned yourself pretty nicely after today's round.**

**BEAU HOSSLER:** Yeah, one day. We've got three more. Got to keep executing good shots and try and stay as patient as I can.

**Q. Coach Fields was on a podcast a couple months ago and was telling a story about your junior year at Texas and when Scottie was a freshman. He said you guys almost came to blows at a tournament at Texas Tech. I was wondering if you could kind of take me through that story from your point of view, if he inflated anything or what --**

**BEAU HOSSLER:** No, it wasn't inflated. He probably deflated it if anything. We were playing this mess-around tournament before the regional there. Basically we were both playing a match. I wasn't playing him, I was playing a New Mexico kid and he was playing a New Mexico kid. I don't know if you've ever been to Lubbock, but it's very, very, very windy.

**Q. I was born there.**

**BEAU HOSSLER:** Like very windy. I hit one on the water on 18, which was the ninth hole. You couldn't even -- it was so windy you couldn't hear each other from however far a part, so I didn't even like announce what ball I was playing but I just hit.

Two holes later, No. 2 is kind of this blind par 5 I think. We both hit it down the middle and whatever. I walked past the first ball, I walked to the second ball, it's 10 yards in front. He hits the ball in the back and then I realized that that was not my ball that I was standing next to. We had different markings, but we both were playing a Titleist whatever, 3 with a Longhorn on it. One had a marking and mine didn't.

He wasn't happy. I was like, well, listen, you're the one who hit the wrong ball. I understand like it's not a -- but like you hit it, I didn't.

And it was a bad deal. It didn't mean anything, but it was just -- we're really competitive, both of us. That was the really cool part about our golf team at Texas, it was like every player on the team was like either a very good player or a pretty good player that was very competitive. We wanted to kick each other's ass all the time.

That was obviously a penalty and he wasn't happy about it. I don't blame him for not being happy about it. I still think it was his fault, he's the only one who hit the wrong ball. I agree I



should have checked closer that it was -- that that was actually my ball, but one way or the other it's a good story.

The good part about friends usually is that lasted -- he was pissed off and I was pissed off for about two hours and once we got on the plane home, it was OK. Scottie's one of my really good friends. We've had so many -- we've grown up literally since we were probably 10 and 9 years old together, he's only a year behind me. We played a couple years at Texas but we grew up playing the same tournaments and now we've been out here on Tour together. I've been out here seven years, I imagine for him it's four or five if I had to guess.

No, he's the best. He's obviously having tremendous success, I'm happy for him. It's a good story. But no, Coach Fields didn't exaggerate.

