

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW  
NOVEMBER 8, 2021**



**ZACK FISCHER ( -14)**

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(In progress)

**ZACK FISCHER:** It's hard to say. They were both very, very difficult. A lot of great players at both of them. Definitely being more seasoned maybe the second one just because I know everything that's at stake, but oddly, I had the same kind of peace I had back in 2013. Just I feel like I've made a lot of strides in my mental game and it just really, really paid off today. It was awesome.

I had a double bogey on 10 that really could have derailed my round and probably would have in the past. I pulled through it and shot even on the back nine and it was good enough, so it was awesome.

**Q. The putt on 18, I mean, it's kind of a weird thing because you're trying to win it, but there's no playoff. It's kind of weird. But a win's a win, or medalist. How big of a deal is that for you to sink that putt? Just also the fact that down the line next year, you're like, hey, I've done this before?**

**ZACK FISCHER:** Yeah, I mean, for sure. I don't know what the stats are, but I really wanted to win Q-School twice just for my mental side. I haven't won a tournament on the Korn Ferry Tour, but I've gotten Q-School twice. Hopefully I can change that. Hopefully we can win an event this next year.

To win it in California and then in Georgia, all the way on the other side of the country, is really cool, too. And also it's really cool, our head pro at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, he came from The Landings. He was at Deer Creek, had a good -- had to give him a shout-out for hooking me up with some housing. What an awesome week. Can't say enough for the golf course, the staff. It was just incredible.

**Q. How big of a deal, though, is it, the fact that you can set your schedule however you want, you know you're playing in every single event, because it's a grind --**

**ZACK FISCHER:** Oh, yeah.

**Q. -- and you know how hot it gets and the travel and the small towns. The fact that you don't have to play every event, you don't have to worry about shuffles.**

**ZACK FISCHER:** Yeah, the shuffle thing can really, really be -- it can really get in your head. I kind of equate it to in baseball or basketball when you're up 3-2 on the team and then they beat you and now it's 3-3. You're thinking, all I had to do was win one of the last

two, but now it's 3-3 and they beat you. So if you get to -- if you start thinking about cuts and how many, it just can get in your head big time. Just being able to set my own schedule, like you said, it will be great. Maybe my daughter will be able to make some events as well, so that would be really cool.

**Q. And then second stage, I mean, that unbelievable round just to get you in and the fact that -- is it -- do you think it helped, the fact that you only had to wait a week and usually Q-Schools are like a month apart where you could take that momentum? Do you think that helped you this week?**

**ZACK FISCHER:** It definitely, it definitely helped a little bit. If it would have been like straight back-to-back, it definitely would have helped. I did have like a week off, but it helped because I needed to get another driver and that was really, really big. TaylorMade got me a driver the Wednesday before and I was just able to hit it and it performed really, really well this week.

I think that was probably the biggest thing was just having a chance to get a driver just because that other one had cracked. That way I could build a little bit of confidence, for sure.

**Q. And then what's the hardest thing about this week, this week in general, because you could say Mother Nature, the new course, the mental grind? What do you think is one of the hardest things about this week for you or in general?**

**ZACK FISCHER:** I think that Magnolia golf course is very, very difficult. I'd say it's second on the golf courses I've played under 7,000 yards being the hardest, for sure.

The weather, the weather definitely made Magnolia even harder. It just was a perfect storm, I feel like, this week for golf to be very difficult.

I feel like I was very fortunate to shoot 13 under and -- or 14 under, I guess now, yeah. It just seems surreal, honestly, that I won this golf tournament.

**Q. And then Zack, can you talk me through the birdie on 18, just the mindset?**

**ZACK FISCHER:** Yeah. So everybody doesn't realize this, but there's water down the left on 18 and I pulled my tee shot and there was a little branch that it was within two or three yards of hitting the branch and could have gone anywhere, but ended up going down the middle of the fairway and everything was great.

Then we had a very awkward number, we had 137 yards coming into the green and I just tried to hit a really hard gap wedge and hoped the wind would pick it up. It ended up being about 12 to 14 feet.

Andrew hit a great shot in there to about six, eight feet and I knew if I made mine, then I was definitely going to be co-medalist. That's why it meant so much just to make it.

Honestly, I was kind of pulling for him to make his because that way we could be co-medalists again. The putt was just outside right edge and it just caught the right line and went in.

**Q. And just when you look back at like, I mean, the 78 in that mini tour event earlier this year, what's the biggest difference between then, when you were extremely hard on yourself and thinking about sort of walking away, to where you are now?**

**ZACK FISCHER:** It's definitely a mindset. Honestly, I was playing just as well as I am now at that point, and if that doesn't tell you that golf is a mental game, I don't know what will.

You can't put so much pressure on yourself. You have to realize that if you put expectations on yourself, that's what pressure is. So all day today I just tried not to expect anything and just tried to just take it a shot at a time and stick to my game plan. All the stereotypical things, but it's true.

If you start letting the people that are moving up influence how you play, then you're going to change everything that you're doing and then you're going to get more nervous. I just tried to stick to exactly what I was going to do, trying to make pars. And the last couple holes I got maybe a touch more aggressive because I had better numbers, but yeah, I mean, it was -- it was hard out there like when you're under the gun. I mean, it's just, I haven't had that in a while. So I think this is the first tournament I've won since last year and that was a smaller event. I really was happy with how I handled all of the pressure.

**Q. Do you plan to try your hand over at Deer Creek in the spring?**

**ZACK FISCHER:** Oh, yeah, for sure. I'm so excited to come back here. The banana butter is unbelievable. The peanut butter-banana butter sandwich is unreal and I can't wait to hit that up again.

**Q. How was the crowd out here for a Monday finish? I know The Landings Club takes a lot of pride in hosting these events. How was it out there?**

**ZACK FISCHER:** So we probably had a gallery of 25 to 30 constantly, but as soon as we rolled around that corner on 18, I was like, "Whoa!" I don't think I've had this many people watching me in, I mean, in a while. It was so awesome just seeing all those people. I mean, when I made that putt, everybody was cheering. I just -- it felt like a really, really big event. They did a phenomenal job of making us feel really special. And Q-School means that much to us, so it just was cool that they made it feel like that for us.