

## First-Round Transcripts | Huntsville Championship | Thursday, April 28, 2022

### **Harrison Endycott (-7, Co-Leader)**

City Plays From: Sydney, Australia | Turned Pro: 2017

Exempt Status: Additional Qualifying Tournament Finishers (thru 2022)

*On his 7-under 63 in the first round and having a share of the lead...*

“This golf course is all about where you leave it in the right spots. You try to give yourself as many looks as you can. I managed to do a good job of that today, stayed really patient, got the putter rolling a little bit. Made a nice birdie on No. 15. That hole is probably the toughest on the course. It’s all about maintaining opportunity. There are a lot of shots where you have to fire away from pins and accept that, try to roll a 25-, 30-footer in. And there are some holes you can go at. Hopefully we can keep it up all week. Going to get a little Outback Steakhouse tonight, go to bed, and try to do it all again tomorrow.”

*On whether he had the mindset to not miss left...*

“It’s kind of a course you don’t want to miss either way. I have my lines and where I want to go at. I played well here last year and just stuck to that same plan. There are a few tee shots there you have to trust, and same with second shots into some greens as well. I did a really good job of that today. It was nothing amazing, just simple golf, and I got the putter rolling well. It was nice.”

*On his 4-under stretch on the first three holes on the back nine...*

“Made a nice eagle on No. 10, a really nice birdie up No. 11 – that pin was tricky to get back to and I squeezed one in the back corner – and then made a pretty gettable birdie on No. 12. I had one loose swing on No. 14, but I wasn’t too panicked about it. It was nice to get on that little heater there. I remember even last year, that stretch of the golf course, if you can make a few putts, give yourself some looks, you can get on a run there. Hopefully we can do that again tomorrow.”

*On how the mindset changes sitting atop the leaderboard...*

“You just have to keep pushing forward. This Tour and all the guys out here are so good at going low. You’ve just got to accept guys are going to keep pushing at you. You’ve got whole new pins again tomorrow. That’s what’s really great about this golf course: with different pins, it’s different lines, different clubs off tees. There is so much that goes into a different style of game plan going at different flags. I’m just going to keep it as simple as I can and be smart with that.”

*On whether it helps having a local on the bag...*

“Absolutely. It was great having Brad out there today. I’ve played enough around here to know where to go, but just to have someone there who’s played here a lot, who’s from here, it gives you a little security. It keeps the inner peace within myself. We had fun out there today.”

*On why he’s going to Outback...*

“I just like their bread. I thought there was an Outback just down the road, I’m a bit tired, hungry, and I know what I’m going to get there and I felt like a steak. It’s not because I’m Aussie.”

**Zack Fischer (-7, Co-Leader)**

City Plays From: Benton, Arkansas | Turned Pro: 2011 | College: University of Texas-Arlington  
Exempt Status: 2021 Qualifying Tournament Medalist (thru 2022)

*On his 7-under 63 in the first round...*

"It was a solid round. I've got my friend Peyton (Wilhoit) on the bag this week; he missed the (Monday) qualifier by one and was nice enough to come out and caddie for me. It was just a good day. I hit a lot of good shots, putted better than I have this whole year, and during the pro-am and practice time putting didn't feel good. Wasn't feeling great this morning, hit a couple putts and went to the tee, shortened up my stroke a little bit, and it was rolling good. It was a great day. Hit it well, and hopefully I can continue that tomorrow."

*On starting and ending the day with three consecutive birdies...*

"I didn't even realize it. The first three birdies were really nice, because No. 11 is playing really, really hard. I hit a really good shot in there, just holed some putts, which was really nice. I hit a lot of good shots and gave myself a ton of good looks."

*On the difficulty of the course and not being able to miss left...*

"I don't fear left. My golf swing is more right. Trouble right is a little more scary for me. It's definitely benefitting me knowing the left side... I don't normally hit it left. Having that crutch where I can aim farther left than some guys is nice. But the wind is really tricky out there. Today, we had light breezes, but the greens are firming up. If they get firmer, it's just going to get harder."

*On what about this course works for your game...*

"All the misses are left. The only bogey I made today was on the right. You have to hit your numbers and having Peyton on the bag with me – we play golf together every day – it just gives me a little bit more confidence, because he knows how far I hit my shots, how I hit my shots, and I think it could be a great week just having him out there with me."

*On Peyton Wilhoit, his caddie for the week...*

"He qualified for Veritex (Bank Championship) and missed this week by one shot; he bogeyed his last hole. For him to come out here had to be a little bittersweet, but he's been awesome. A great guy, one of my really, really good friends. So glad he's out here."

### **Erik Barnes (-6, T3)**

City Plays From: Marion, Indiana | Turned Pro: 2011 | College: Austin Peay State University  
Exempt Status: Top 75 on 2020-21 Regular Season Points List (thru 2022)

*On his first round performance and having a share of the lead after the morning wave...*

“My round was a little bit of a tale of two nines even though the score doesn't really show it. The front nine, it was kind of cold, a little chilly this morning. The first five or six holes, we didn't get much wind which was great. I actually putted terrific today. Probably the best putting round of the year. I probably made three 20-footers today. Then the wind started to blow pretty hard there for like an hour and a half. We got like 20 mile per hour winds when we were on like No. 17 through once we got down the hill on No. 3, and it was just weird. I hit a bad tee shot off the first hole, made double there but I hit it right and it hit a tree and ricocheted way back on the right. My only play was to kind of wedge it down the fairway and I did. I hit a good shot in there on my third and it flew three steps right of the hole and three steps past the hole, just kind of where you're looking to hit it, and it went left off the green and 20 yards down into the hazard. I just don't think they foresaw a 20 mile per hour right to left wind there when the forecast was being had. But the back nine, I just started stiffing it, or I guess it would've been my front nine. But I went for it in two on No. 4 and got it up and down for birdie, then hit it to 3 feet on No. 5, 5 feet on No. 6, 4 feet on No. 7, and then hit a good wedge shot in there on No. 8 to like 7 feet. I had a stretch there for four holes where I didn't have a putt outside 7 feet for birdie.”

*On carrying the momentum into the second round...*

“I played here last year, so I knew what to expect coming in here. You just do not want to hit it left on this golf course. Pretty much every hole with the exception of maybe the sixth, if you hit it left, you're out of play. I don't think there's any adjustment to have. I know this place already, so I'm just going to try to keep doing the same thing.”

*On no player with the 18-, 36- or 54-hole lead winning a tournament this year...*

“Well I didn't know that until you brought it up. If it stays like this, someone's probably going to be better than 6-under and I'm not concerned about any of that. It is a four-day golf tournament. I had a two-shot lead going into the weekend in Savannah and lost by like four. I'm just going to try keep doing the same thing, keep putting myself into position for Sunday and if I can manage it well and play well, then we'll see what happens after Sunday's over.”

*On how he feels with his game this season...*

“I feel good. Obviously every week goes by, you make another cut, people talk about it and it's something you think about, but I've just got to think about every shot that's in front of me. If I'm looking too far ahead and thinking about not wanting to miss a cut because I've made the first nine or whatever, I'm probably going to miss a cut at some point. And I know I will miss a cut at some point, so it's only a matter of time. If I can keep focusing on the shot that's in front of me and not on the outcome that I want, I'll probably be in good shape.”

*On feeling like a hometown event...*

“Well I'm from Indiana, but I live in Birmingham. Just moved there and it's been terrific. As you can tell, the weather here is beautiful and the scenery is gorgeous. It feels like a hometown event kind of now, even though I don't know as many people as I know in Indiana, but it's been good so far.”

**Albin Choi (-6, T3)**

City Plays From: Toronto, Ontario, Canada | Turned Pro: 2013 | College: North Carolina State University  
Exempt Status: Additional 2021 Qualifying Tournament Finishers (thru 2022)

*On his performance in the first round...*

"I just got into a rhythm early. I made some really nice putts early on in the round and got settled in the first few holes. Made some really good par saves to keep the run going and that was pretty big today."

*On his birdie at the 505-yard par-4 15th...*

"Luckily it was downwind, and I hit a great drive and hit the down slope. Got all the way down there and I think I had 174 in and it was a perfect 9-iron, hit it to pin high and made it."

*On how he's spent time this season after only getting three previous starts...*

"I've just been trying to play as much as possible. I've always had aspirations of getting back out here and competing again, so I always had that in the back of my mind. It was pretty motivating to keep playing and stay sharp, because you never know when your next start might be. My goal was to stay sharp as long as possible."

*On the balance of working on his game and enjoying time away from golf...*

"I think it was both good and bad. I definitely missed playing. When I wasn't playing I just missed it a lot. The fastest way I could get back, that was the driving factor for me. Just trying to play in as many events as I could and then everything worked out and here I am."

*On waiting for the first reshuffle of the season...*

"I think I had to wait three events (after a T6 at the LECOM Suncoast Classic) before the shuffle happened. Honestly, it was pretty good because I had some time to work on a few things that I felt weren't up to standard. Plus, we have a long stretch here and it was kind of like a break, a forced break to say the least. It was nice. I think the time off really helped and now I'm fresh and ready to go on this long stretch."

*On how demanding The Ledges is...*

"The Ledges is a very fitting name for this place. There are a lot of tee shots where you have to hit over some cliffs and just be really committed to your lines. Plus, the greens are getting really firm and fast out here. So with all this wind, even if you hit a good tee ball, that's only half the battle. You've got to stay sharp and have to get lucky in some spots, but overall it's not playing easy for sure."

*On turning 30 next week...*

"This is my last event as a 29-year-old so like you said, I'm going to try my best to end on a good note. So far, so good. We'll see how it goes."

*On if he has any family or friends in town this week*

"No, not this week. But I'll have family coming out next week for the birthday week. I haven't seen them in a long time so that'll be a nice treat. So hopefully just take care of business this week and play three more good rounds and onto next week."

*On how he'll spend his afternoon after having a morning tee time today...*

"Maybe a little afternoon nap and a workout. Nothing really, I'll maybe try and catch up on shows, maybe a mini workout and rest up for tomorrow."

**Zecheng Dou (-6, T3)**

City Plays From: Beijing, China | Turned Pro: 2014 | Pronunciation: zuh-CHUNG DOE

Exempt Status: Top 75 on 2020-21 Regular Season Points List (thru 2022)

*On his bogey-free 6-under 64 and what worked best for him...*

“Last week, took a week off after Dallas and stayed at home, fixed some stuff with my coach with the swing, and I swung it really well today. If I can hit it like this every day, I don’t even have to putt good and I think I’m right there. I missed one 2-footer, a 3-footer, and two 6-, 7-, 8-footers. I missed a lot of putts but hit it really good.”

*On whether it was frustrating to hit it so well but miss so many putts...*

“I hit it really good on the front and made some putts, so I got to 3- or 4-under really early. That felt good compared to not playing good on the front, missing (putts) on the front... you probably won’t make anything on the back. But I got some in early. Although I missed some short putts, I always knew I could make some putts and still get it back.”

*On what about this course works for his game...*

“It’s a good layout, there are a lot of really big cliffs... it’s all about ball striking and putting out here. You have to hit it good and putt it good to play good out here. And not miss many fairways. If you miss it here, it’s most likely a bogey.”

**Seonghyeon Kim (-6, T3) | Pronunciation: SUNG-Hyun**

City Plays From: South Korea | Turned Pro: 2017 | College: Korea National Sport University

Exempt Status: Qualifying Tournament Finishers 11-40 and Ties (thru 2022)

*On his bogey-free 6-under 64 and what worked best for him...*

“Overall, it was a comfortable round for me. The wind started picking up, but it did blow in my favor according to my game. I had a very comfortable round out there, and I think the course fits my game. I had a good day.”

*On having a great season so far and closing in on a PGA TOUR card...*

“I am thankful I’m in a great position to earn my PGA TOUR card, but I don’t want to think about that every week. I just look at the events in front of me and try to focus on each tournament. I have higher goals.”

*On what about this course works for his game...*

“It reminds me a lot of the courses I played back in Japan and Korea. These type of courses require accurate tee shots and accurate iron play into the greens. I’m used to playing in this kind of environment, so it really felt comfortable for me on the course.”