



PRESENTED BY



MATTHEW RIEDEL

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Final Round – PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry (Final Stage)

On earning his PGA TOUR card today...

It means everything. I worked really hard for this moment, just really proud of myself that coming down the stretch it was tough, I wanted it to be tough and I persevered and got through. It's awesome and I'm excited to see what this next year has to offer. It's going to be another challenge ahead of me but I'm excited for it.

On his warm-up prior to the Final Round...

It felt a little different, the final rounds always got a little more to it, especially being with the lead. I wanted to win, that was my goal going into it, not just getting so locked in on that top-five but to win to kind of prove it to myself. I knew I was going to have some kind of adversity today; you don't go through many final rounds with the lead and not have that, but I just kind of wanted to do what it took. I felt like I did a great job just staying in the moment for everything and just hitting one shot at a time and trusting my plan not necessarily the plan that other people were doing, and it worked out.

On his thoughts after hitting his tee shot on No. 6 out of bounds...

I was disappointed. I didn't really hit any great shots to start the day so I wanted to get in a better rhythm. My biggest thing that I think really worked for me this week was that I just accepted the shots and their outcome. In the past I think I would have locked in on 'what did that swing feel like? What went wrong there?' and I didn't even think about that honestly. I've been working on my mental game a little bit and that was something that just kind of 'it happened, now what? We're laying up, trying to get the wedge up and down' and go from there. It's different when you have a cushion with the top-five not necessarily the top-one, but still any final round it's going to be a tough day, and you're going to have to hit some shots like that.

On his tee shot on 16...

When we played it a couple days ago, a few guys laid up, I hit driver and seven iron in, also at the time I thought I was one in, I thought I was T4, T5 from what I'd seen, and then get up there and obviously it was outside of it. I trusted my wedges all week, so I wasn't pressed on it. I don't need to hit a driver in this tight window and also hit a four iron up this tight chute, because I made a mistake in Wichita on the Korn Ferry Tour earlier in the year trying to press to early on and missed the cut because of it. I was just thinking that I could make four the old fashioned way, and that's what was comfortable with me and it worked out.

On his strategy on No. 18...

I thought I needed a par I didn't know exactly what it was. I saw that Will Chandler was at 4-under and he was through 17, and I knew a lot of the guys were right on 18. So I didn't know if one of those guys bogeyed and if I'd have another sliver, but I was telling myself I needed a par and I was in for sure. The scoreboard wasn't working over there, but I couldn't really feel much on those final few shots. I was just trying to play the shot in front of me and just see what happens and by the grace of god I got away with it.

On his up-and-down on 18...

I had a really good lie which was really nice, it was a pretty simple chip, given the moment that makes it tougher but just trying to focus on the fundamentals I've been working on and what I know works. The chip ran out a little bit but I liked it off the face but it ran out about four or five extra feet. I didn't see anything to the putt. I felt like it was a pretty decent putt I thought it broke a little left, it did lip in, so I'm just happy it lipped in, but just really tried to be in the moment. There's obviously a lot of outside noise and stuff going on, just tried to ignore it and get the ball up and down.

On his immediate reaction when his putt on 18 dropped...

That's a moment I'll never forget. It was just so much relief in one, I had hoped, you know I'm 24 so I knew I had time if not now then I'll get it next year on this Korn Ferry Tour if it didn't go in. When I was over the putt I kind of remembered watching Nick Dunlap win the American Express, he said that his caddie told him like 'your mom could make this putt,' like, don't over do it. Just kind of focused on, 'it's a dead straight putt, you've hit a thousand of these on a chalk-line, just feel it.'

On the pressure/reaction of that putt

A hundred percent, if even a little more. I guess when you're out there and you have a chance to win, you have the next week and this was like a another full year. I mean just tried to stay in the moment and I've practiced those putts so just to knock it down was a huge confidence booster... I don't even know what happened after. Everything happened so fast, it was the first time I could actually exhale and hang out a little bit and be so uptight with everything.

On whether he thought his tee shot on 17 was in play and the ensuing chip...

So the first hop it looked pretty straight so I was like 'I feel fine about it' then we walked up more and more and still kept cutting in and I told my caddie 'I guess we'll see how good I was this year and see if I got a break,' I don't know how that ball is up. Honestly, that ball should not have been up. I'm just thankful that it was...Chip was good. I thought I landed it four feet further than I wanted, I clipped it really well but it had a lot of spin. I'll take an assist off the stick and almost in the cup, whatever happened there I'm thankful for it.

On getting his card this early in his career...

Yea, I wanted to get my card and I want to keep it, that's the next goal I'm working on now, but yeah I'm blessed to be around so many guys who are so good in Gordon (Sargent), Jackson (Van Paris), even before me (John) Augenstein, we had a great culture, my roommate William Moll who's also a great player, he's been on the Korn Ferry Tour with me. I don't pay attention to the outside noise I can only control what I can control and just play my game and see where that stacks up. I definitely think I've flown under the radar, but I've always just had the motto of trying to get a little better every day, every year and just being on a steady incline and I guess that's just where I am right now.

On his relationship with his caddie Drew Murdoch...

We've been buddies for a long time. I'm happy he wanted to caddie for me too especially after this summer he's like 'yea I'll do it why not?' then after the summer he was like 'yea sure let's do it another year.' So I'm happy to see what that kind of looks like next year with him. He's been great for me and keeping me in the moment just talking about random stuff. We're both big (Houston) Rockets fans so just talking about the game last night and talking about what the Texans are doing now, just any small talk just helps me get out of that mode a little bit.

On his Saturday night prior to the final round...

Yea probably didn't sleep great. I was up a little bit through the night, I didn't expect to sleep well but it was fun though.

On who he was thinking about when he got his card...

I mean the first person I called was my mom and my family. All of them have done so much for me. My parents have sacrificed so much for me and so have my siblings. They love me and I've cherished all of our moments together, I'm just so thankful to have had them as an upbringing. They've been there for everything.