



PRESENTED BY



Will Chandler

Sunday, December 15, 2024

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

On y University of Georgia players making it to the PGA TOUR...

I mean, you're on your own. You're not on your own, but it's up to you to practice and earn your spot in each event. Just like professional golf, you have to earn your way into events and earn your way into qualifying, and all of that. It builds a lot of grit and toughness, and that's what you need out here.

On playing with other strong players at Georgia...

Yeah, it wasn't always fun getting beat a lot in college by my teammates. I mean, they're great players too, obviously, so it's a great environment. We push each other and it's awesome.

On his 5-under on the back nine of the final round...

I hit it really well on the front. I couldn't hole anything, so I changed balls on the turn and I started holing everything. I don't know, I just told myself, keep giving yourself looks, keep hitting it solid, keep hitting your spot, and you know the putts started to fall. It was nice.

On his eagle at the par-5 16th in the final round...

I hit a 4-iron. I had about 243 yards to the flag, a little help. I was playing to the front, you know over there to the front right. That's where my ball landed and I made a long putt. A tap-in would have been nice, I was just trying to get the line right. Hit it up there high right and let it come down, and it did nicely. It's quick, it's very quick, you got to get it way high right because that hill is pretty steep. You have to get it high up and just let it trickle.

On 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry and having no status...

I didn't make it through First Stage, so it was quick, one tournament. It wasn't great, I played the Canadian Tour and I didn't even keep my card there. I was like, well I don't have any status going into next year, so it's going to be a lot of Mondays. So that's what I did.

On what he did for work after losing status...

Fortunately, I played mini-tour events and did pretty well in those and have some great sponsors. So, I was able to practice and do everything I needed to do to compete.

On his 2024 Q-School journey and starting at Second Stage...

I felt pretty good about my game going into Second Stage, but I hadn't played a tournament since October or September. I just played some Mondays and stuff since then, you never know how you're going to handle it, so I just wanted to make sure I was really consistent over the four days and doing everything well, and being mentally fresh. I knew I was playing well, so I got back into tournament mode pretty easily.

On his 3-under 67 in the third round at Sawgrass Country Club...

I was pretty frustrated with how I finished yesterday, I had some good looks on Nos. 16 and 17. Then I had a pretty straightforward up and down on No. 18 that I didn't get. I was playing well yesterday, and you know it should have been lower, but I was pretty frustrated with how I finished so I came out here and practiced a little bit, did some putting, and it paid off today.

On how the pressure this week compared to his past experiences...

Similar, You're playing a golf tournament, for me, I'm playing a golf tournament, I'm doing all of my stuff, numbers and just trying to play to the correct spots. The fact that it's Q-School is there, but I'm focused on each shot.

On how he got into golf...

I guess my dad did. But, you know our club in Atlanta had a great junior program, so I had a lot of friends and I was really young and I can't hardly remember, but my dad would take me out there. We'd play at like dark and all that stuff, and father-son tournaments and stuff. So, my dad, I guess like everyone else. It was Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta.

On how he thinks his emotions will be when he receives his first TOUR card...

I haven't even thought about it. I didn't even know I was really in contention for a card until I made the eagle. I don't think it's really hit me, I'm pretty hungry right now.

On living in St. Simmons Island, Georgia...

I moved there in 2022 at the beginning of the year. I graduated school in '21 and at the beginning of '22 I really moved there, full-time professional golfer, learned a lot and all the guys there are awesome. So, I'm starting to learn from every guy there, and seeing how everyone works and treats it like a job.

On Coach Haack's influence on him and his game...

I was not very good, so I had a lot of tough moments. Everything he used to tell me it makes sense now. Like, commit to the shot, all of that stuff. It makes sense now, but in the moment, you're like, I don't know if I can't commit, I'm not hitting the ball very well. So, everything that he used to say definitely makes a lot of sense now.

On who his coach is now...

Mike Lipnick, he's at TPC Sugarloaf in Atlanta, he's helped me a lot. I've been working him since, after I turned pro.

On who he plays with in St. Simmons Island...

I play with some of the TOUR players, some of the guys on Korn Ferry, for sure. You would think we play all the time, but everyone is on such different schedules and stuff, we don't get to play with everyone all the time. You know, you practice with guys and have competitions... you just learn from watching other guys and how they practice. It's great, I'm at the facility with them and I see everyone working every day.

On which Monday qualifier from last year was most pivotal for his 2024 season...

The first one, it was in Dallas, and you know it sounds like a lot. I'm going to fly here and play a Monday qualifier, and if I didn't get through that one I was going to do Americas Q-School. So, I got through it and I got a little bit of points and whatever. So, I was like, I should just focus on Mondays, I can continue to get through them, and I ended up getting through some more and playing all right. The first one was the most important for sure.