

Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G

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Maineville, Ohio, USA

TPC River's Bend

Charley Hull

Press Conference



THE MODERATOR: Okay, here now with the winner the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G. Just take us through the day. Especially obviously 18. What you were thinking standing over that putt.

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, I felt like I played pretty solid all day. The back nine I felt I was playing pretty solid. Nothing was dropping until that putt on 16.

Hit a good putt on I think it was my 13th hole where I made bogey. It was right in the middle of the hole.

Then I don't know how it missed. That was kind of a bit of like, ah. Then I tried to make some birdies coming in and didn't drop until 16. It was a tricky pin. And then 17 I didn't want to be in the left rough.

It was quite an awkward shot. It was 275 to carry the bunker; couldn't quite carry it, so I was trying to hit just a nice perfect little draw off that bunker.

In the bunker it would've been completely fine, but I've really hit a good drive there. It didn't move a yard. Anywhere in the bunker would've been fine, but I was in the lip. Three feet back I would've had a nice easy shot to the green. Got a bit screwed there.

Then 18 pushed my driver a little bit. Hit a nice cut 9-iron round the tree; didn't quite cut. Thought I had to hole the putt and just two-putted.

I don't really remember much from the last hole. It was a little bit of a shock. I was nervous over that putt. My hands were shaking. I think, wow, I think I was more shocked and the adrenaline and everything.

Q. Obviously first win since 2022 on the LPGA Tour. How good does it feel?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, feels good. Plenty of second

place finishes in the last few years and even in the last couple weeks coming from British Open and then last week finished second on the Ladies European Tour, and then to get the win, it feels pretty good.

Q. What about your game right now is just working? Obviously back-to-back top-2s --

CHARLEY HULL: Actually I'm a bit injured at the moment. I've tore the limit completely in half on my foot in a car park the week after the British Open at a golf event. Got told it could be up to nine weeks I could be out. I was like, wow, I turned it round in three weeks; played last week.

Had an MRI on my back as well because I've picked up a box couple months before Evian and I think I tore something in my back because it never got better. When I fell down when I done my ankle, got the MRI and I've got some cysts growing from where I tore the muscle.

I've got a healthy spine. It's just like managing it and stuff. I think I've been slapped with every injury at the minute, so I have just been managing my way through it this week. My body has been actually pretty good. A little bit sore.

But no, I've just been absolutely grinding hard at home after I had 14 days off because of my injury, and then the last week hitting so many golf balls and practicing hard. Hard work pays off, and it has and I just feel good at the minute.

Q. Where does this one range having dealt with all that adversity in the past few months?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, definitely up there. Obviously I think coming from British Open I really wanted to play Canada and Boston after because I was on such a roll. I was just worried it was just going to make me feel down and depressed and put a halt to my game. I've managed to battle through it come back second and won this week. Yeah, I'm pretty happy.

Q. You're the 25th different winner on the LPGA Tour this season; something we've never seen before. What does that streak say about the parity in women's golf



right now?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, it shows you how strong and the depth there is on the LPGA Tour. Like going back, say, 20 years ago, it was -- you would get very much the same winners because always the top 10 on the rankings.

Now I feel like the depth is so strong, so that shows you how strong the Tour is. It's getting harder and harder to win, so you've have to play good every week.

Q. Had to battle for this one. What do you do to celebrate and soak in this moment?

CHARLEY HULL: To be honest, I've had a nice surprise by my boyfriend in London tomorrow. We are going for a nice massage and going for a nice bit of food with Annabelle and Alfie. Annabelle plays on the Ladies European Tour, so we're going on a little date night, but that's going to be extra special so we'll just turn it into a little bit of a celebration.

But it will be nice. I'm playing Wentworth because I have the BMW PGA this week and I am playing there on Tuesday because it's my home golf course. The greens are going to be pure; I'm actually looking forward to playing that as well.

Q. Why do you think you managed to still play so well in spite of all the injuries and illnesses you dealt with?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, it's been a rocky couple of months to be fair. Obviously fainting at Evian, doing my back, and then tearing the ligament in my ankle. I sound like a bit of a car crash.

I don't know. I suppose pain is just a weakness of the mind. Probably does me a bit of a favor sometimes because I end up doing too much, too much gym, practice, overthinking. It's given me time to chill and that's probably what I needed.

Q. Could you describe what was going on on your last putt? It was only like a foot putt.

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, it was only like a foot putt, but I think I was generally that shocked. And then I get a lot of adrenaline on the way round. I can cog down -- say if it was like a 190 pin that would be a 5-iron; I could hit a 7-iron that far.

I feel like I was pretty calm coming into the green knew I had to hole the putt four eagle. Missed it and had a foot putt. When I realized I had it for the win I had this mad shock of adrenaline come through me and my hands was

like shaking.

I was like, oh, no. Usually I can calm it down in like five minutes but I had to play straightaway. I had to back off it twice. I don't know how like Tiger Woods won that many tournaments, that much pressure. It was just a shock.

If I knew it was to win coming up the hole I think I would've been fine. I think I was just so shocked. Yeah, I? Holed it and it was good. Even though it was a foot putt, they feel like 10-footers.

Q. I know you're quite a confident player but what does this do for your confidence looking ahead to the rest of the season?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, I'm buzzing. Got the International Crown coming up and Korea and then The ANNIKA and Tour Championship. Obviously I've won round that Tour Championship course before, so I'm just buzzing to go out there and play a bit of golf.

Not too much because I'm still managing my ankle and that. Now I feel like I know I can do it. It's been a bit of a drought. I've quite a few second place finishes and it's been the bridesmaid and now I'm the bride finally.

Q. Congratulations, Charley. Where did you get the mindset when you said before pain is a weakness of the mind? How did you come to be able to play so well with pain, and is that something you learned in childhood?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, I think my mum and dad it was a bit like tough love. They were the best parents I could have had. They're so caring and so loving, but like if we were to fall over as kids, he'll be like, right, have you broke anything? No. All right. Go on then. Stop crying and stand up and get on with it.

So I kind of like been taught that from a young age. I don't know. It's just the way I deal with things. Pain is a weakness of the mind. I could get it if I couldn't move my leg or get out of bed, but I can keep moving so just deal with it.

Q. Okay. Do you feel like you almost play better when you have injuries?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah.

Q. Why is that?

CHARLEY HULL: Because it slows my mind down. I always find when I'm poorly, ill, I usually play good golf.



My mind is 100 miles an hour, but when I'm poorly I find I'm more relaxed, so...

And I probably expect less and do less. My days are usually full out, going to the gym, golf, practice. When I'm kind of poorly or injured I do a lot less and I put less pressure on myself.

Then I kind of do better sometimes.

Q. And then lastly, you hugged Jeeno there afterwards. What were your kind of emotions for her when you hugged her in that moment?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, I didn't really process it. Like Jeeno played great today. She was very solid. Unfortunate what happened to her on the last hole.

At the end of the day I just felt like I needed a little bit of luck on my side in the last few years because I don't feel like it's ever gone my way and it's finally got my way for once.

Every dog has its day.

Q. Congratulations Charley. Sorry, still laughing from your last comment. When is the last time you found yourself shaking on a golf course prior to today?

CHARLEY HULL: Probably -- tell you when actually. British Open the first hole on the final round. I had like a four-footer to save par. I was nervous over that putt. I remember shaking a little bit. I think because it was a little bit cold as well. I wasn't super shaking.

But that was the first time I ever properly shook. It was all because of -- every golfer is going to have bit of shakes. You can just kind of calm yourself down for two minutes and they go away. Where it was like boom, it was straight me. I was kind of confused what was going on and I think that's why I was so shaky.

Q. You seem to bounce back from tough things, tough finishes with ease. Has there been a close call over the last year or so that was particularly hard to get over?

CHARLEY HULL: Not really. I think because I've got such a good close family at home, such a solid relationship with like my boyfriend and family and my friends. Like I play golf and I forget about it. Go home, play golf with them, do normal things, enjoy stuff.

That makes it kind of good balance if you know what I mean. It's not golf, golf, golf, golf, golf. But as in thinking

about winning and all this kind of stuff, like I want to but I've got a life outside of golf. That kind of helps ease your mind.

Q. Has it always been that way?

CHARLEY HULL: Yeah, I think so. I think probably last couple years I put a little bit more pressure on myself to play well on Tour. But I think now I am managing it like pretty good. My coach, Matt and Nick, they're both like I think it was middle of this year Matt was like, Charley, you need to practice less. I was like, okay.

He was like, I don't tell many players that but you need to practice less. I was like, okay. So I kind of did. Last few weeks I had to practice more to get my feels back because I had two weeks of golf, so it's just finding a balance.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Charley, congratulations again.

CHARLEY HULL: Thanks, guys, cheers.

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