

Billy Mayfair Transcript

[BillyAudio.mp3](#)

00:00:00 Eileen Lamb

Welcome to Adulting on the spectrum.

00:00:02 Eileen Lamb

In this podcast, we want to highlight the real voices of autistic people, not just inspirational stories, but people like us talking about their day-to-day life.

00:00:12 Eileen Lamb

Basically, we want to give a voice to a variety of autistic people and I am Eileen Lamb, an autistic author and photographer from France.

00:00:20 Eileen Lamb

And I co-host this podcast with Andrew Komarow. Hey Andrew.

00:00:24 Andrew Komarow

Hey, Eileen, I'm an autistic entrepreneur and founder of the neurodiversity index. Today our guest is Billy Mayfair. Billy is one of the top professional golfers in the United States and has been a regular on the PGA Tour since 1989. He boasts 5 PGA Tour victories and is the only player to ever beat Tiger Woods

00:00:45 Andrew Komarow

In a PGA Tour playoff.

00:00:47 Andrew Komarow

After dealing with Asperger related symptoms for most of his life, Mayfair was diagnosed in 2019 with autism.

00:00:55 Andrew Komarow

Previously, during the 2006 season, Mayfair was diagnosed with testicular cancer and underwent surgery, returning to the tour just two weeks later, along with his family, Mayfair began a nonprofit

00:01:07 Andrew Komarow

foundation tasked with providing support to those,

00:01:10 Andrew Komarow

those to both amateur and professional athletes and their families who struggle with autism related disorders thank you for joining us.

00:01:18 Billy Mayfair

Hey, thank you for having me on guys.

00:01:20 Billy Mayfair

Been looking forward to it.

00:01:22 Andrew Komarow

So we like to start our podcast off,

00:01:25 Andrew Komarow

we ask each guest how they prefer to identify, and we don't mean he/her pronouns.

00:01:31 Andrew Komarow

Although you're welcome to share those too, we mean person with autism, autistic, Asperger.

00:01:37 Andrew Komarow

I don't care.

00:01:39 Andrew Komarow

No preference.

00:01:41 Andrew Komarow

So do you have a preference?

00:01:44 Andrew Komarow

If so, what is it?

00:01:44 Billy Mayfair

I, I'm

00:01:46 Billy Mayfair

I'm not saying preference, but I I have autism and I was diagnosed with it and it was probably one of the best things that ever happened in my life.

00:01:55 Billy Mayfair

My wife Tammy, kind of, I want to say demanded, but pretty much

00:02:00 Billy Mayfair

told me I better go get tested by a neuro, neuropsychologist and and I did and and it changed my life.

00:02:06 Billy Mayfair

It it, it helped me it it opened up a lot of windows to my childhood to growing up.

00:02:11 Billy Mayfair

And now it's time to we feel we wanted to go public with this to to not just help other professional athletes but to help children and

00:02:20 Billy Mayfair

and and and grown-ups all over the world.

00:02:22 Eileen Lamb

Can you talk us that through the diagnosis?

00:02:27 Andrew Komarow

What led to your wife pushing you so much? Demanding?

00:02:30 Billy Mayfair

She she always, you know with

00:02:32 Billy Mayfair

with high, high functioning autism as well

00:02:35 Billy Mayfair

if you're around that person every once in a while, you really don't see a big difference.

00:02:38 Billy Mayfair

It's the people who are married to that person or father or mother who see that person hour after hour, every day that you kind of see something a little bit different.

00:02:47 Billy Mayfair

And and and my wife kind of noticed it with me.

00:02:49 Billy Mayfair

I would have meltdowns.

00:02:51 Billy Mayfair

I wanted to be in dark places. I wanted,

00:02:53 Billy Mayfair

I couldn't understand some of facial expressions for other people.

00:02:58 Billy Mayfair

Couple of months before that, before I was diagnosed, I had a problems with the PJA Tour Rules

00:03:03 Billy Mayfair

Officials. There was a ruling and I was kind of bullied.

00:03:08 Billy Mayfair

I would think by them they they didn't give me an opportunity and I didn't understand the the entire ruling or the disqualification and it it happened.

00:03:17 Billy Mayfair

A lot quicker than my brain could have comprehend could have comprehended it.

00:03:21 Billy Mayfair

So when we got home from that, my wife demanded that I get tested.

00:03:26 Billy Mayfair

And I did.

00:03:26 Billy Mayfair

And and I fought her tooth and nail.

00:03:28 Billy Mayfair

I think it,

00:03:28 Billy Mayfair

was two or three weeks before I finally went down and did it.

00:03:30 Billy Mayfair

It was probably a couple of weeks to months before I finally sat

00:03:33 Billy Mayfair

down and read, read the diagnosis of it, but

00:03:36 Billy Mayfair

when I finally did and I and I read a lot of it, it opened up a lot of windows.

00:03:39 Billy Mayfair

It made more sense to me why I am the type of person that I am, why I am the the athlete, the elite athlete that I am, and but it also made sense why I had a hard times in school with certain teachers and not

00:03:52 Billy Mayfair

Others. Why I have get along so good with certain people and not others, and sometimes why I still come across as being weird or cocky or quiet that people don't understand when I think that's very normal for me.

00:04:05 Billy Mayfair

So it opened up a lot of windows for me and and as I said before and will say a few times probably

00:04:10 Billy Mayfair

You know it's something that you know everyone thinks of

00:04:13 Billy Mayfair

autism is Rain Man and that and that's not the case in this I have

00:04:16 Billy Mayfair

we have high functioning autism and like I said you don't you don't notice that if you're around that person every once in a while, but when you're around that person all the time you do so

00:04:25 Billy Mayfair

it's a learning process.

00:04:26 Billy Mayfair

I learn things every day.

00:04:27 Billy Mayfair

I learn, you know, coming on

00:04:28 Billy Mayfair

shows and talking about it to people like you.

00:04:30 Billy Mayfair

I learn more things about it.

00:04:33 Billy Mayfair

I think you do too.

00:04:33 Billy Mayfair

And it's it's

00:04:34 Billy Mayfair

I think it's such a great.

00:04:36 Billy Mayfair

Thing to give back to people and and and makes people make more sense of their entire lives.

00:04:43 Eileen Lamb

Do you, uh, are you able to share what happened with you?

00:04:47 Eileen Lamb

I'm like, very interested about the ruling and what happened on the PGA Tour you said.

00:04:54 Billy Mayfair

Well, it was

00:04:56 Billy Mayfair

it was a weird situation where TV was involved.

00:04:59 Billy Mayfair

They saw something on on film that I was not able to see and it ended up being a disqualification because of that.

00:05:07 Billy Mayfair

Although it does state in the rule book that if my eyes don't see the ball move or that particular case

00:05:13 Billy Mayfair

it's not a penalty, it's called the "Naked Eye Rule," and I was bullied by the Tour.

00:05:19 Billy Mayfair

I was bullied by the officials on the Tour to make an impromptu

00:05:22 Billy Mayfair

they made a decision without my presence.

00:05:24 Billy Mayfair

And I didn't,

00:05:25 Billy Mayfair

I didn't argue back or fight back for my rights and

00:05:28 Billy Mayfair

it was something,

00:05:29 Billy Mayfair

that that when it affects your income, it affects your livelihood.

00:05:34 Billy Mayfair

You know you you got to get some help.

00:05:36 Billy Mayfair

And the blessing for us was that we went to a PGA.

00:05:39 Billy Mayfair

I mean, the USGA Rules Seminar afterwards, and I was correct and everything that I did.

00:05:47 Billy Mayfair

It it it just it and then got contested and all that and then then COVID hit.

00:05:50 Billy Mayfair

So it gave me a lot of time to be at home to work with my my, my neuropsychologist, to kind of help me.

00:05:55 Billy Mayfair

So it was kind of a three-step process which which which was.

00:05:58 Billy Mayfair

A blessing in in in all of it.

00:06:01 Andrew Komarow

Yeah, I found, especially when I was working in like, you know, corporate America and nothing is like the epitome of corporate America, then the insurance industry where like.

00:06:12 Andrew Komarow

Wait, why and and wanting to know the reason behind the the rules and and the details and feeling when they're unjust and you know.

00:06:20 Andrew Komarow

But it sounds like at least you were able to, you know, get the reason why right so.

00:06:26 Billy Mayfair

I did.

00:06:27 Billy Mayfair

I did.

00:06:27 Billy Mayfair

And as you know, you see that?

00:06:27 Andrew Komarow

Even if you didn't agree with.

00:06:30 Billy Mayfair

Even some even sometimes when you when you see what the reason is, sometimes it just takes you a little bit of time

00:06:34 Billy Mayfair

to comprehend it and and and all that.

00:06:36 Billy Mayfair

And that's where I felt I was bullied by the tour.

00:06:40 Billy Mayfair

They tried to get this done and and and have me disqualified and get away as fast as they could.

00:06:45 Billy Mayfair

And you know, they they were wrong.

00:06:49 Billy Mayfair

They were wrong.

00:06:50 Billy Mayfair

And you know, I I have to look at it now that now that.

00:06:53 Billy Mayfair

That's done. I've I've been

00:06:55 Billy Mayfair

diagnosed and and now it's my responsibility and and and my job to go out and help other people help themselves too

00:07:00 Speaker 3sSo they're not bullied or taking advantage.

00:07:03 Andrew Komarow

What would you if you were diagnosed prior to that and the same situation were to happen again?

00:07:11 Andrew Komarow

How would you handle it differently, if at all?

00:07:14 Billy Mayfair

Well the first,

00:07:15 Billy Mayfair

Well, I I I I would have first of all probably been a little bit more standoffish.

00:07:20 Billy Mayfair

I probably would have argued a little bit more.

00:07:21 Billy Mayfair

I would have used more eye contact and I would have used I would have,

00:07:26 Billy Mayfair

I tried to recognize their body language and their facial expressions, probably a little bit better than I did because I I didn't know anything about that at the time.

00:07:34 Billy Mayfair

But I think the biggest thing is I probably would have stood more up for myself. I knew what

00:07:38 Billy Mayfair

the rules were and never would have never

00:07:41 Billy Mayfair

been belligerent or

00:07:42 Billy Mayfair

or rude or anything like that, but I would have stood my ground a lot better and not have them take advantage of.

00:07:49 Billy Mayfair

And and then and I think the biggest thing I probably just would have asked for more time, I would say hold on a second before we make this decision, let me a minute here.

00:07:56 Billy Mayfair

Let me think about this.

00:07:57 Billy Mayfair

Give me a couple of minutes and then we'll talk about it.

00:08:00 Billy Mayfair

But you got to give

00:08:00 Billy Mayfair

me a few minutes and they wanted it done and and out of there as fast as they could.

00:08:05 Eileen Lamb

Yeah, I think that's a good take away from it asking for more time. I mean, I can see that being a great tip in so many situations for children, teenagers, adults alike on the spectrum. Sometimes we just need more time to process what's happening in front of us, you know, so.

00:08:24 Billy Mayfair

And that's and I think more teachers and coaches, people are becoming aware of that.

00:08:29 Billy Mayfair

So that when you ask, hey, can you just give me a few minutes, let me think about this.

00:08:34 Billy Mayfair

It's acceptable before if you did that, people just looked at you, that you were weird and and you were trying to stall or you're trying to get away with something.

00:08:41 Billy Mayfair

And now I think people are more acceptable.

00:08:43 Billy Mayfair

Saying, OK, hey, yeah, if you need.

00:08:44 Billy Mayfair

A few minutes I'll be here.

00:08:46 Billy Mayfair

You know and and and and help the person out so that everyone walks away satisfied.

00:08:52 Eileen Lamb

Yeah.

00:08:54 Andrew Komarow

That seems like a reasonable request for anyone, you know, autism or not, you know, to to ask for a few minutes so.

00:09:01 Billy Mayfair

Right.

00:09:02 Billy Mayfair

And and and and,

00:09:02 Billy Mayfair

and yeah, and like I said, I I hope that I think the world is changing a little bit.

00:09:05 Billy Mayfair

I, as I

00:09:06 Billy Mayfair

Said, I think coaches and teachers and and bosses and and and and and all that our our understanding that. And if someone asks for a few minutes they'll they're more than happy to because they want they don't they don't want

00:09:16 Billy Mayfair

to conflict, they don't want to end badly.

00:09:20 Eileen Lamb

So being a professional golfer, clearly there are things that are more difficult for you being autistic.

00:09:26 Eileen Lamb

And would you say that there are other things that your peers and other golfers don't have to worry about that you have to worry about being on the spectrum yourself?

00:09:40 Billy Mayfair

Well, I I I look at more I think I have sometimes more advantages having autism on the PGA Tour than than disadvantages.

00:09:48 Billy Mayfair

I was blessed that I could go out to the golf course early in the morning and be out there all day by myself and not have a problem with it.

00:09:55 Billy Mayfair

Some people, just can't handle that.

00:09:57 Billy Mayfair

I I picked a sport where I don't need a team.

00:10:00 Billy Mayfair

I can go out and hit golf balls and and do whatever I want all day

00:10:03 Billy Mayfair

long and I didn't mind doing that.

00:10:06 Billy Mayfair

I think a lot of

00:10:08 Billy Mayfair

I know some guys here who were very good golfers and just could not take the life of a PGA tour where they were on an airplane.

00:10:15 Billy Mayfair

They were in hotel rooms by them.

00:10:16 Billy Mayfair

Themselves and away from home, and it made them crazy.

00:10:20 Billy Mayfair

And and fortunately they weren't able to stay on the PGA Tour because of that.

00:10:24 Billy Mayfair

So I think my,

00:10:25 Andrew Komarow

You were already crazy so

00:10:26 Andrew Komarow

00:10:27 Andrew Komarow

So yeah, I'm just kidding.

00:10:29 Billy Mayfair

To do that job, you do have to be a little bit crazy.

00:10:31 Billy Mayfair

There's no doubt

00:10:32 Billy Mayfair

about that.

00:10:33 Billy Mayfair

But you know, it kind of opened my eyes, you know it

00:10:36 Billy Mayfair

it takes a special person to be

00:10:38 Billy Mayfair

you know, 32,30 weeks, 30, 32 weeks out of the year in a hotel room pretty much by yourself. And it's a lonely life and.

00:10:46 Billy Mayfair

people turn on the TV and they see the the guy finish on Sunday and make \$1,000,000 and you know the celebration.

00:10:51 Billy Mayfair

Oh, what a great life. They don't. You don't get to see the other 148 guys who are struggling at the time.

00:10:56 Billy Mayfair

So it's just like any other job.

00:10:58 Billy Mayfair

There's good times, there's bad times and you know, you just have to deal with a lot of lot of situations.

00:11:05 Eileen Lamb

So was beating Tiger Woods the best moment of your career?

00:11:10 Eileen Lamb

And if not, which one was it?

00:11:12 Billy Mayfair

Well, it's the one I'm the most asked about that that's for sure. That was this October was no February, this February was 25 years.

00:11:21 Billy Mayfair

They've been 25 years since I've beaten him and they really there's not a day that doesn't go by where someone doesn't tell me about it or talk to me about it or we don't discuss it.

00:11:31 Billy Mayfair

So you know, it's 25 years. So I mean, I and I'm the only one and unfortunately I might end up being the only one because I don't know how much Tiger is going to be able to play and be able to compete anymore.

00:11:42 Billy Mayfair

But you know, I I I it was a great thrill for me.

00:11:45 Billy Mayfair

I loved the fact that I won the

00:11:47 Billy Mayfair

golf tournament. I

00:11:47 Billy Mayfair

think that was probably the most important thing Tiger was not

00:11:50 Billy Mayfair

what Tiger is now by any means, I think he only won one other tour, had not even won a major yet, so people weren't too sure about him.

00:11:57 Billy Mayfair

But I think the greatest thing was that Tiger and I have a very mutual respect for one another.

00:12:02 Billy Mayfair

We don't talk very much, him and I, but was a very professional.

00:12:05 Billy Mayfair

And you know , I ve got to get a little story.

00:12:07 Billy Mayfair

We were at a tournament one time and we were all in the players dining room.

00:12:10 Billy Mayfair

He came and sat next to my wife.

00:12:12 Billy Mayfair

Tammy and I and.

00:12:13 Billy Mayfair

And said, do you mind if I sit here with you guys?

00:12:15 Billy Mayfair

We said no.

00:12:15 Billy Mayfair

He goes well

00:12:16 Billy Mayfair

You know, Billy, you're the only one I can't intimidate out here.

00:12:18 Billy Mayfair

So you know it it's great that I beat him in a playoffs and all that, but I think.

00:12:23 Billy Mayfair

The friendship that.

00:12:24 Billy Mayfair

We got for the, for the the camaraderie especially we're both in.

00:12:27 Billy Mayfair

The PAC 12 too.

00:12:29 Billy Mayfair

You know, he helped our friendship too.

00:12:32 Eileen Lamb

That's so great to hear, you know, because we don't see that side of uh, professional golfing or any sports.

00:12:39 Eileen Lamb

You know, we only see what we see on TV.

00:12:41 Eileen Lamb

So I I don't.

00:12:41 Billy Mayfair

It is hard and and for him, I mean for the the amount of media, the amount of people that want his time.

00:12:47 Billy Mayfair

All day, when he's in the locker room, he's at the hotel.

00:12:50 Billy Mayfair

That's his only free free time.

00:12:51 Billy Mayfair

And and when you see him that way, he's he's a little bit of a different person, but he definitely turns it on when he's on that first tee, there's.

00:12:59 Billy Mayfair

no doubt about that. So.

00:13:02 Andrew Komarow

And how how do you get ready?

00:13:04 Andrew Komarow

How do you prep for a tournament?

00:13:08 Billy Mayfair

I I go pretty,

00:13:09 Billy Mayfair

it's funny and it has, you know, and this is another thing.

00:13:11 Billy Mayfair

When I the way I would you know I would be very I got up in plenty of time.

00:13:15 Billy Mayfair

I get sure that I I.

00:13:16 Billy Mayfair

Stretch real good.

00:13:17 Billy Mayfair

In the morning I eat certain foods.

00:13:19 Billy Mayfair

In the morning.

00:13:21 Billy Mayfair

If we have an afternoon late afternoon tea time, I won't go to bed until you know wee hours of the morning so that I can wake up at the same time and give myself the same time schedule and and that something to do with my autism.

00:13:32 Billy Mayfair

And that was something that that I never thought about until I was diagnosed.

00:13:37 Billy Mayfair

And one of the things I do I don't like to drive.

00:13:40 Billy Mayfair

Fast to the golf course, I want to give myself plenty of time.

00:13:44 Billy Mayfair

I'm not saying I'm going to drive under the speed limit, but I'll just take my time.

00:13:47 Billy Mayfair

And if there's an accident or or someone's being a jerk or or, or if there's at the tournament a hard time to get in through the gate or something, I always would allow myself enough

00:13:55 Billy Mayfair

time not to stress out about missing my tee time.

00:13:58 Eileen Lamb

Sounds like someone preparing to go through security at the airport.

00:14:02 Billy Mayfair

At the airport.

00:14:03 Billy Mayfair

Well, you should see how early.

00:14:04 Billy Mayfair

We get to the airports to go to the

00:14:05 Billy Mayfair

TSA.

00:14:06 Billy Mayfair

Yeah, it's, it's it's pretty early, so.

00:14:10 Billy Mayfair

Luckily, I can say I haven't missed too many fights in my day, but you know, I always like to give myself plenty of time.

00:14:15 Billy Mayfair

I'll say yes,

00:14:15 Billy Mayfair

let's leave it this I go.

00:14:17 Billy Mayfair

Let's, let's leave at this time to my wife.

00:14:17 Billy Mayfair

And she says that's early, I say yes.

00:14:21 Andrew Komarow

I feel like there there's like two types.

00:14:23 Andrew Komarow

There's like people who show up like 2 hours early, and then there's the people who are who, who don't, and they they usually marry each other so.

00:14:32 Andrew Komarow

But yeah.

00:14:33 Billy Mayfair

Well, that's kind of that's kind of ours.

00:14:35 Billy Mayfair

You're right.

00:14:36 Billy Mayfair

I mean, Andrew, you're absolutely right.

00:14:38 Billy Mayfair

We're opposites.

00:14:38 Billy Mayfair

And I think that's that's very important to to mention.

00:14:42 Billy Mayfair

That helps helps the relationship, helps a marriage, and if you had two people that were the same way, I think it'd be a lot harder to to function.

00:14:54 Eileen Lamb

Do you have any tips for children who might want to start golfing?

00:14:59 Eileen Lamb

When did you start?

00:15:00 Billy Mayfair

My dad, my dad actually would go up to Prescott, AZ in the summer time and and he put a cough covering my hand when I was about three years old.

00:15:06 Billy Mayfair

And and we just hit some balls on the range and and as I kind of grew, I used to do a lot of swimming.

00:15:12 Billy Mayfair

I was a pretty good swimmer in the state of Arizona and and I would swim on Monday nights and then play golf on Tuesday.

00:15:18 Billy Mayfair

Well, I swam.

00:15:19 Billy Mayfair

I would get a ribbon.

00:15:20 Billy Mayfair

I finished second.

00:15:21 Billy Mayfair

I got a I got a a red ribbon and all that stuff.

00:15:23 Billy Mayfair

I finished, finished second in golf tournament.

00:15:25 Billy Mayfair

I got a trophy, so off was a lot more fun because I wanted that trophy over those ribbons.

00:15:32 Billy Mayfair

Plus, I think it was too

00:15:33 Billy Mayfair

I mean, swimming was the same way I could go to the pool and swim laps and swim laps and and

00:15:38 Billy Mayfair

didn't have to have anybody around me or a team.

00:15:40 Billy Mayfair

Golf was the same way I'd go out to the golf course and ship and pop and hit balls go out and play and be out there all day and and just love doing what I did.

00:15:48 Billy Mayfair

And I love competition.

00:15:50 Billy Mayfair

I love playing on the tour.

00:15:51 Billy Mayfair

I love,

00:15:52 Billy Mayfair

I love the fact that on every Thursday morning or Friday morning on the tour we all start even no matter what you did the week before, we all start dead even and it's a whole new week and a whole new tournament and it's not like, you know, baseball.

00:16:04 Billy Mayfair

These other sports you always you know, if you lost your last game, you're this many games behind in golf, you could have lost by 100 shots in the week before, but you start dead even come Friday or

00:16:13 Billy Mayfair

Thursday or Friday morning.

00:16:14 Andrew Komarow

Do you play mini golf?

00:16:18 Billy Mayfair

No, not not.

00:16:19 Billy Mayfair

Not anymore.

00:16:19 Billy Mayfair

No, I'm

00:16:20 Billy Mayfair

I'm kind of like the race car drivers

00:16:21 Billy Mayfair

they won't make.

00:16:22 Billy Mayfair

They won't make a left.

00:16:23 Billy Mayfair

They don't want everyone to make.

00:16:24 Billy Mayfair

A A right hand

00:16:25 Billy Mayfair

Turn I don't ever want to play miniature golf.

00:16:29 Billy Mayfair

It would, it would.

00:16:29 Billy Mayfair

They would mess up my golf game.

00:16:31 Billy Mayfair

I never, I never.

00:16:31 Andrew Komarow

Fair enough.

00:16:32 Billy Mayfair

I never one of those putting greens, those artificial turf greens in my backyard, because I just, you know, if I'm going to go practice and go hit balls, I'm going to go to the golf course and and that's one I could never figure out why I would want to.

00:16:44 Billy Mayfair

Why would I want a putting green in my backyard?

00:16:47 Eileen Lamb

Does it make really a big difference?

00:16:49 Eileen Lamb

The green on the golf course and like if you do and the grain in a practice?

00:16:55 Billy Mayfair

Well, yeah.

00:16:56 Billy Mayfair

I mean, it's the most of the

00:16:57 Billy Mayfair

greens you have in your backyard are artificial turf.

00:16:59 Billy Mayfair

So no matter how much sand or how you condition them, you can make them however you want.

00:17:03 Billy Mayfair

It's still not grass and it's still not what you do on the golf course.

00:17:06 Billy Mayfair

So, but to me it's it's one of those when I

00:17:09 Billy Mayfair

leave the golf

00:17:09 Billy Mayfair

course I put the clubs in the car and and I'm done with golf until the next day.

00:17:13 Billy Mayfair

I don't ever want to bring it home.

00:17:14 Billy Mayfair

I'm not one who puts in the room or swings in the room or or stuff like that.

00:17:19 Billy Mayfair

I get back to the hotel or to the house and I put him away and I don't see him till the next day.

00:17:24 Eileen Lamb

Do you,

00:17:24 Eileen Lamb

well, do you practice when you're not in a tournament season?

00:17:27 Eileen Lamb

Is there a tournament?

00:17:28 Billy Mayfair

Yeah, yeah, we're home this week right now and

00:17:30 Billy Mayfair

I'll go out.

00:17:31 Billy Mayfair

You know, just about every day and and hit some balls or or put or play.

00:17:34 Billy Mayfair

With some friends around here.

00:17:35 Billy Mayfair

But I stay active.

00:17:36 Billy Mayfair

I mean, I'll take a few days

00:17:37 Billy Mayfair

off here and there, but I I like to practice and play when I'm home.

00:17:42 Eileen Lamb

So fun fact, as you you know, I work at a Autism Speaks as the Director of Mocial media and our CEO, Keith Wargo, says that you're one of his favorite golfers.

00:17:56 Eileen Lamb

What do you think of?

00:17:57 Billy Mayfair

Oh, that's awesome.

00:17:58 Billy Mayfair

That's awesome.

00:17:59 Billy Mayfair

That's awesome.

00:18:00 Billy Mayfair

Well tell

00:18:00 Billy Mayfair

him, thank you and I appreciate

00:18:01 Billy Mayfair

that, and I had a nice note from from a child who was diagnosed with autism a few weeks ago and and he said I'm his favorite golfer because of my autism.

00:18:09 Billy Mayfair

So those are those

00:18:12 Billy Mayfair

are the things you get in the mail and and you know you know you're doing the right thing by helping people.

00:18:17 Eileen Lamb

When did you make your diagnosis public?

00:18:22 Billy Mayfair

Well, we had, we were tested in November of 19 and after yo

00:18:28 Billy Mayfair

know it took.

00:18:28 Billy Mayfair

about six months, almost a year, and and for me to read it, to accept it and

00:18:33 Billy Mayfair

and we, my wife and I made the decision to go public with it because, well, one that the PGA Tour was not accepted in autism as an any type of disability or anything like that.

00:18:46 Billy Mayfair

But it was just more

00:18:49 Billy Mayfair

we realized they were with, we were

00:18:50 Billy Mayfair

they were athletes out there, professional athletes that probably had autism that needed that we thought could we could help them.

00:18:56 Billy Mayfair

And we also saw the the help that needed to be by the families who, who, children or athletes who have autism, their their families and and and needed help too.

00:19:06 Billy Mayfair

And that's what

00:19:07 Billy Mayfair

kind of kind of got Tammy and I into doing our foundation.

00:19:11 Andrew Komarow

Really like that

00:19:12 Andrew Komarow

It's not just autism too.

00:19:13 Andrew Komarow

We've had a few other we've had a football player, right?

00:19:18 Andrew Komarow

Eileen, we've had have,

00:19:21 Andrew Komarow

Have we had a basketball player?

00:19:22 Andrew Komarow

I feel like they're.

00:19:23 Eileen Lamb

No, Tony Snell just came out with the autism diagnosis, but he's not on our podcast.

00:19:34 Billy Mayfair

Well, you know it, it's

00:19:35 Billy Mayfair

and when you go around, I I had a I was up in in Flint, MI a year ago and and a bunch of kids who had autism.

00:19:42 Billy Mayfair

I had a group of them come out and watch me play one day and I was unaware that they were out there and out there and I met them after the round and and to meet the kids and to talk to them and show them that you can have a you can do anything you want to do.

00:19:53 Billy Mayfair

You have a normal life.

00:19:54 Billy Mayfair

You can be a professional

00:19:55 Billy Mayfair

athlete, a golfer.

00:19:56 Billy Mayfair

You can be a professional businessman.

00:19:58 Billy Mayfair

Firemen for policemen.

00:20:00 Billy Mayfair

Whatever you want to do, the world's,

00:20:01 S Billy Mayfair

you know, there's no limitations.

00:20:03 Billy Mayfair

Just because your autism, I think open their eyes.

00:20:06 Billy Mayfair

But to also stand back behind them and watch their parents get a smile on their face and kind of a relief, kind of like hear someone finally helping us and telling them they can do that made me really think with Tammy and I to to help

00:20:19 Billy Mayfair

the siblings because honestly, there's just isn't enough help out there for them.

00:20:25 Eileen Lamb

Yes, that's that's true.

00:20:26 Eileen Lamb

I'm a I have two autistic children and I'm on the spectrum myself.

00:20:31 Eileen Lamb

So yeah, all of my life.

00:20:33 Eileen Lamb

And we do need other community.

00:20:35 Eileen Lamb

And you know what they say?

00:20:36 Eileen Lamb

It takes a it takes a village.

00:20:38 Billy Mayfair

That's right.

00:20:39 Billy Mayfair

Well, God bless you all.

00:20:40 Billy Mayfair

It's it's it's that's it's it's a true statement, yes.

00:20:46 Eileen Lamb

Do you had anybody?

00:20:48 Eileen Lamb

reach out to you after your diagnosis.

00:20:50 Eileen Lamb

That's not like a fan or like, did anybody you play with maybe reach out after your diagnosis?

00:20:57 Billy Mayfair

I yeah, I I've had a lot of special

00:20:59 Billy Mayfair

i've had I had.

00:21:00 Billy Mayfair

A gentleman who was.

00:21:01 Billy Mayfair

I think 58 , 9 years old.

00:21:03 Billy Mayfair

He was a professional writer.

00:21:06 Billy Mayfair

He wrote for a lot of newspapers, all that back in New York, and he read my article and went and got diagnosed and wrote me a nice note and thanked me for having me do that, having, you know, having me tell my story.

00:21:18 Billy Mayfair

So that he would do it because he always felt that there was just something not right there.

00:21:21 Billy Mayfair

And then after he was diagnosed, it helped him a bunch. But I've actually almost gotten more notes from grown-ups that maybe I have children because I think that grown-ups, you know, they've had this condition their whole life and they're unaware of it.

00:21:38 Billy Mayfair

And then all of a sudden, at age 40, 50 years old, I had heard a note from a woman who just got diagnosed with who's 70 some odd years old and it's like, you know, it rejuvenated her life, because now they started making more sense and she was able to do some things and understand why things went the way they did sometimes. And and and that's that's the blessing and that's why I've encouraged people to to go get diagnosed.

00:22:01 Eileen Lamb

Wow, 77, that's such a cool story.

00:22:05 Billy Mayfair

Yeah, yeah.

00:22:07 Billy Mayfair

And in fact, she lives in Palm Springs, and she came out and actually came out and met.

00:22:10 Billy Mayfair

I met her during the tournament and didn't.

00:22:13 Billy Mayfair

know the whole

00:22:13 Billy Mayfair

story and maybe she went diagnosed, got

00:22:15 Billy Mayfair

diagnosed, I think after that.

00:22:16 Billy Mayfair

That's right. Who was after that? So I mean, 77 year old woman and you know that's that's when you know what? When you when you try to reach out and help people that

00:22:26 Billy Mayfair

when you do find someone like that, it's it's it's really a blessing.

00:22:31 Andrew Komarow

What else do you like to do other than golf, if anything at all?

00:22:37 Billy Mayfair

Drive my wife nuts, no.

00:22:41 Andrew Komarow

Not at least.

00:22:42 Billy Mayfair

We, we, we, I love the bowl.

00:22:44 Billy Mayfair

I do a lot of bowling. I love animals. I try to help some charities around here and there all over in Oklahoma and Arizona for for charities, for for animal foundations and all that.

00:22:55 Billy Mayfair

You know, any sport, anything right now is is a year round sport.

00:22:59 Billy Mayfair

And and even though we're in the offseason, I'm still preparing, working out and doing things.

00:23:03 Billy Mayfair

But one of my favorite things I love to do is sitting on my recliner and watch TV and that's, you know, that's, you know.

00:23:13 Billy Mayfair

That's OK.

00:23:13 Billy Mayfair

It how I

00:23:14 Billy Mayfair

That's the way that

00:23:15 Billy Mayfair

I self soothe my brain.

00:23:17 Billy Mayfair

And it wasn't until I was diagnosed that I realized it was OK to sit on that sofa and and and and and watch the TV for a few hours.

00:23:24 Billy Mayfair

And you know, to calm down, that's the way that I calm down.

00:23:27 Billy Mayfair

That's that's the way I do it.

00:23:28 Billy Mayfair

So I'm, I'm.

00:23:29 Billy Mayfair

I feel OK when I

00:23:30 Billy Mayfair

do it now.

00:23:32 Eileen Lamb

We all need it, yeah.

00:23:34 Andrew Komarow

So is there any place that do you have a social media where we can find you?

00:23:39 Andrew Komarow

This is the place to promote yourself or or anything else that you would like to share?

00:23:45 Billy Mayfair

Well, we can talk to Steve obviously on the line there, but it's mostly billymayfair.org and that tells everything about what we're trying to do and the foundation and all that.

00:23:53 Billy Mayfair

And as you know and I know it is, it can be a slow process sometimes with all this and then all the stuff you have to do, but it's on billymayfair.org and you know we're we're taking it one day at a time and then.

00:24:07 Billy Mayfair

Trying to help one one person at a time and

00:24:10 Billy Mayfair

you know, thank you for having me on it and doing this because it makes it people aware of it.

00:24:14 Billy Mayfair

And as I'm finding out more and more and more people hear about it and talk about it, the more they start thinking about things and and want to get diagnosed or or to help their children or something like that.

00:24:24 Billy Mayfair

And and that's who we're out here. For, we're here to help other people with this.

00:24:31 Eileen Lamb

I'm going to ask you some quick fire questions. Basically, the first answer that comes to your to your mind.

00:24:31 Billy Mayfair

OK.OK.

00:24:36 Eileen Lamb

What's your favorite animal?

Billy Mayfair

Dog

00:24:41 Eileen Lamb

Happy glamour or Caddyshack?

Billy Mayfair

Caddyhsack

00:24:47 Eileen Lamb

Your favorite actor.

00:24:49 Billy Mayfair

Kevin Costner.

00:24:51 Eileen Lamb

Favorite food?

Billy Mayfair

Pizza

00:24:56 Eileen Lamb

And favorite color.

Billy Mayfair

Lavendar.

00:25:00 Eileen Lamb

Wow, that's so pretty.

00:25:02 Eileen Lamb

Love that answer.

00:25:04 Andrew Komarow

Are you watching Yellowstone?

00:25:05 Andrew Komarow

Wasn't one of the questions, but just a side note from you, you know.

00:25:08 Billy Mayfair

Well, yeah, I have watched Yellowstone. My my actually, my cousin makes all the jeans for you?. His own business here up in up in the north. Here and and. So we've watched Yellowstone, Kevin. I got to know I've I've. I've met Kevin a few times. We were on the sets here for Tin Cup.

00:25:27 Billy Mayfair

So I've always been kind of a Kevin Costner fan because I've got to spend some time with him, but I have we have

00:25:34 Billy Mayfair

watched Yellowstone, but

00:25:35 Billy Mayfair

more, it's just to to see the jeans.

00:25:37 Billy Mayfair

It sounds funny, but to watch the jeans and then the actual movie so.

00:25:44 Eileen Lamb

Uh, well, that's that's it for us.

00:25:46 Eileen Lamb

But thank you so much for joining us today.

00:25:49 Billy Mayfair

Well, hey, thank you for having me on and thank you for what all you guys do and and and and getting the word out and and spreading it around and and helping people understand better the the the diagnosis and and all that.

00:26:00 Billy Mayfair

So thank you so much.

00:26:02 Andrew Komarow

Thank you.

00:26:03 Billy Mayfair

OK.