

**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BART BRYANT**  
**Friday, August 16, 2013**



**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Okay, Bart, 6-under 66 and I guess you had four of them on the front side?

**BART BRYANT:** On the back.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** On the back side. Very nice start to the 2013 Dick's Sporting Goods Open, your first appearance here as a Champions Tour player but you played a few times here on the PGA, TOUR?

**BART BRYANT:** Yeah, I played a couple, maybe three back when it was the BC Open, just didn't include it in my schedule very often. I love the golf course, and from what I remember it's a better course and in better shape now than it ever was back then, believe it or not. It's nice to be out here playing the Champions Tour, it's great to be here at the Dick's Sporting Goods Open. I've been looking forward to this one all year because it's a course that I played before.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** This is your first season on the Champions Tour. Just sort of assess how you've done and the quality of play out here.

**BART BRYANT:** Well, as far as how I've done, I'm not disappointed. I had had a couple wrist surgeries so I was off for about three years and played a little bit at the end of last year. When I first came out here this year, I didn't have a lot of game, just my golf muscles were not built back up, I just wasn't back at the level that I was when I left, or even close. As the year's gone on I've gotten a little bit stronger, I've lost a little bit of pain, I'm starting to get some of the those shots back in my arsenal that I had prior to the surgery, so I feel like I'm kind of creeping in on some really good golf and maybe having the ability to compete.

As far as the quality of play on the Champions Tour, it's very good. I think most guys who come out are very surprised at how good the guys are out here and every week someone is also shooting extremely low. To win out here is very tough. Of course we only have 81 players as opposed to 156 on the PGA TOUR, so a lot of times you might be able to eke out a Top 10 where you wouldn't on TOUR, but as far as winning the golf tournament, you've still got to shoot an extremely low score to get it done.

**Q. We'll just try to go through the round as best we can. You birdied I guess No. 2?**

**BART BRYANT:** Yes, I birdied No. 2, I hit a sand wedge in there about 10 feet right of the hole, made a good putt, which is nice because I just missed a little one on the

1st hole, so it got me back in a good frame of mind.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Do you remember the other one on the front nine?

**BART BRYANT:** Let's see, I don't, it's terrible.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** 7's a par 3.

**BART BRYANT:** I didn't birdie 7.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** 8's a par 5.

**BART BRYANT:** Oh, you know what, I birdied the first par 5, I'm sorry.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** No. 3?

**BART BRYANT:** I birdied the second par 5, apologize, guys. Anyway, I actually hit a sand wedge in to about three feet and I made it there.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** We had four on the back starting with No. 10.

**BART BRYANT:** Yeah, No. 10 I made about a 20- to 25-footer from kind of the left side of the green. I drove it in the rough and kind of had to lay off to the left because of the water, but it was really nice because I played so well on the front nine and I was only 2-under so it was kind of a bonus. Then I birdied 12, hit it in the front bunker in two and then hit it to about six inches there out of the bunker, a real nice shot. Par 3 I believe is No. 14, I hit a real nice 5-iron in to about 15 feet and made the putt. Then I birdied 18, rolled in about a 30-footer, which really made me feel a lot better about my round. I really felt like I didn't get much out of it but then all of a sudden I rolled in a 30-footer on the last hole and I just, I made kind of a mediocre day a much better day; not that 67's are mediocre, but I just didn't get a lot out of it and that made me really feel like I got something back that maybe I left out there.

**Q. Going back to your roots, you were playing pretty well on the PGA TOUR there in your 40s there and such. To have that long absence, especially heading into a prime spot in your career when you have time to make some hay out here, how tough was that?**

**BART BRYANT:** It was frustrating, it was tough. I mean, I was out for a good three years and well over two of that I couldn't even putt or chip or anything. I went through the first surgery and rehabbed for a year and then we tried surgery at the end. Honestly, I really thought that I was probably done, so to be out here playing and playing relatively pain free as long as I manage it, I don't practice too much, is pretty amazing, it's really a blessing because I really thought that I was probably done. I'll tell you what, every day I count it a privilege to be out here playing with these guys

because it was a long three years and I missed it a lot.

**Q. Do you think it kind of helps, you go into Sunday maybe if you're in the hunt there, just to ease some of the pressure because the bottom line is you're playing and maybe you thought you wouldn't be playing?**

**BART BRYANT:** Yeah, I think so. I think by and large maybe we don't feel quite as much pressure out here. I'm not saying we don't feel pressure because we do no matter whatever level we play, but I just think that the guys out here have been through the process before, almost all the guys have won events or multiple events so they've been there, they've done it, it's not quite as high profile here. So first of all you don't have quite as much pressure. But then alluding to what you're saying, just to be out here playing, it just feels so good. Yeah, I think a little bit of that pressure is taken off and I don't think expectations are real high, either.

**Q. Especially with a round like this, a solid round like this, how important are pre-shot routines?**

**BART BRYANT:** Well, my pre-shot routine was really good this week. I really committed to that in my last event in Minnesota from the pro-am day on, I just committed to picking out a spot in front of my ball, which is something I used to do but I haven't been doing this year, and that's just given me a little more consistency, so I stuck with that. And honestly, three of the last four rounds I played I haven't had a bogey and I think a lot of that's due to the consistency of that routine, and some of my misses are just not quite as far off and allowed me to maybe hit the edge of the green instead of missing it by a couple feet, which a lot of times is the difference between a par and a bogey.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Thanks, Bart.

**BART BRYANT:** Thank you.