

**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BART BRYANT**  
**Friday, August 23, 2013**

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Bart Bryant, 32-34, 66 and 6-under par, winner last week, the 1,000th winner at the Dick's Sporting Goods Open and you get off to another good start today, awfully hot with five birdies in your first six holes.

**BART BRYANT:** Yeah, that was a great way to get it started. I wish I could have hung on there late, I just kind of ran out of steam it seemed like the last few holes. But overall a great day and 66, you know, I would take that at the beginning of the day, yeah. In fact, I'll take it every day the rest of my life, but it's a great first round and feels really good to get off to a good start.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Tell us what it's been like since Sunday last week when you won. To follow up that and not have any fall-pretty off is special.

**BART BRYANT:** Yeah, my wife and I talked, and my caddie. That's something that I really set as a goal was to be able to come back strong today and that may be why I got off to such a good start, but we were really focused on that. As soon as the tournament was over we started talking about this first round and trying to get ready to play. That's something that on the PGA TOUR, the three times I won, every time I just fell apart the next week so that was something I wanted to try to achieve this time. Of course it's nice to have that one extra day out here being a three-day tournament, so it was nice having a day of rest yesterday before I came back. But it's been great winning last week. All the guys out here have been unbelievably kind to me as well as their wives and the officials so it's really been neat for me.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Details on the birdies and bogeys.

**BART BRYANT:** No. 1, I actually hit a 3-wood in there to about 20 feet and two-putted for a birdie. No. 3, I made about a 12-footer, hit an 8-iron in, made about a 12-footer. No. 4, I hit an 8-iron in and made about a 15-footer. No. 5, I hit an 8-iron in, that was a good club for me, hit an 8-iron to about 10, 11 feet right behind the hole, made that. The par 3 down the hill, I didn't hit a great shot but I caught the ridge and it kind of rolled around to probably about 20 feet and I actually made a fairly long putt there, so that got me 5-under after the first six. It's kind of a dream start. Unfortunately I did bogey the next hole.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** What did you do there?

**BART BRYANT:** I hit it in the bunker in two and hit a real good bunker shot to about five feet and then missed it. The next hole, the par 5, I did not birdie, so that's kind of giving one up, No. 8. I birdied No. 11, I hit a wedge into about eight feet, made a real

nice putt. I holed out on 13 out of the bunker. I did not hit a very good shot in there, hit a 5-iron, kind of pulled it. I didn't have an easy bunker shot, but I was able to hole that one out so that was kind of cool. 14, I didn't try to drive it on the green, I aimed out to the right with a 3-wood and hit a wedge to, probably maybe about another 18-footer there. I made a lot of really good six- to 18-footers today, which are kind of the keys to having such a good round.

**Q. The last four rounds, how would you sum it up? I'm guessing it's just been a great stretch for you?**

**BART BRYANT:** It has been better. I played better in Minnesota, I shot all my rounds in the 60s there, so I felt like at that point like I was starting to see some progress and see some of the old shots coming back, so I was getting a little more confident. The last three tournaments I shot 66 the first round, so getting off to a fast start out here really helps. I'm in a little bit of a different place than I was, my game has just progressed a little bit more, I'm rolling the ball a little bit better and I'm able to hit some shots that I couldn't hit at the beginning of the year just because of my health, because of my wrist, but I'm starting to get a little bit healthier and get a little more swing speed. I just have more arrows in the quiver now, to be honest with you.

**Q. You talk about being in a different place, is that mostly a health thing?**

**BART BRYANT:** Yeah, for me it's a little bit of both, but the physical comes first because I didn't have the ability to swing a club hard enough to do much. I couldn't really spin the ball, I couldn't hit flop shots, it was hard for me to hit really quick bunker shots, I could not fade the ball at all. All I could do was just kind of really rotate and hit, that's all my wrist could take. Now I'm able to set the club a little bit, hold off, so I think my wrist has allowed me to do a little bit more these last couple months and that's given me confidence and given me a better mental edge.

**Q. What was the issue with your wrist? Did you have surgery?**

**BART BRYANT:** I did, I had two major wrist surgeries that took me out for three years, two wrist fusions. The first one, I rehabbed for a year and the doctor decided that it just didn't work, half of the fusion didn't take, so we redid it. At that point I was not real hopeful to play, but the second time we did it, it worked. We backed one screw out, put two more in, refused it, seems like it's holding together. It's talking to me right now, but it is holding together.

**Q. Was there one incident that caused it?**

**BART BRYANT:** No, it's just years and years of beating it up. I lost all the cartilage in there and the bones just started turning and rubbing. Unfortunately at this time it's not like a knee or a shoulder, they just don't know exactly what to do, so the only thing they can do is try to go in there and fuse it and create one big bone. Then the

problem is you lose all the shock absorption that you have throughout the wrist so every time you hit, it goes right to the exterior of that wrist. But all of us out here have something going on, I'm not special in any way, believe me. We're all popping the Advil as we play.

**Q. How nice is it to have your brother on Tour with you?**

**BART BRYANT:** It's nice. We played the PGA TOUR a long time together. I don't know how nice it is for him this year having me out because he's been struggling a little bit this year. He's had some major health issues and it's been a struggle for him. He had a great career out here. I don't know if I'm coming in right at the end of his career or not. Hopefully he'll get his health together and get back on it. We're eight years apart in age, so there was not a lot of sibling rivalry growing up, not a lot of competition amongst us, but it's always been fun playing with him. We enjoy maybe having dinner with him one night during the week or something.

**Q. I'm sure someone else will bring this up to you, but no first-round leader has won this event.**

**BART BRYANT:** Oh, boy.

**Q. What do you have to do to change that?**

**BART BRYANT:** Well, I mean, the odds are with me then. The way I look at it, it's got to happen sometime, right?

**Q. When did you feel that you could make a return with your wrist holding up? You said you weren't hopeful, then you started to play. What was the turning point where you felt maybe it will work?**

**BART BRYANT:** I'll tell you, somewhere about a quarter of the way through 2012 I started thinking I might have a chance to do this. I actually played a few TOUR events at the end of last year just to test it. I probably shouldn't have played, I wasn't competitive, I was lucky to make a couple cuts, I was not competitive and I was just kind of bunting the ball around. At that point I just started thinking if I can just take two more steps forward, I actually could play. I didn't know that I could compete out here, but I knew that I could at least play. I was to a point where I could hit the ball far enough, get the ball in the air good enough, and at the beginning of the year honestly I thought this might be what it is, this may be my career how I'm playing now. Somehow it's just gotten a little bit better and it's put me up the ladder one more rung and it's a lot more fun, I'll tell that you.

**Q. Does the wrist force you to take a little time off?**

**BART BRYANT:** It does, absolutely. I took Monday totally off, I took yesterday

totally off. Tuesday I played a few holes, saw the greens, hit very minimal balls, and then Wednesday I played the pro-am and hit a few balls. Honestly, between like the last tournament and this tournament, I've done very little. That would be very unusual for me back in the PGA TOUR days, but I can't do it now. I'm hoping that my wrist can hold on through Calgary and then I'll have two weeks off, but I have to go through periods where I just have about five or six days off where all I do is put it in a brace, don't move it, and it allows it to heal back up and regenerate.

**Q. Which wrist is it?**

**BART BRYANT:** It's the left.

**Q. The possibility that you might have been done, was that difficult to come to terms with?**

**BART BRYANT:** Yes. I don't know that I ever came to terms with it, but it was tough. It was probably tougher on my wife than for me, having me around for that long. I mean, I did a little bit of grieving but also hoped that I could come back. There was a time when I didn't really believe it was going to happen but it was short lived and I started seeing some progress and then hope and it kept snowballing and hoping it's going to hang on for a few years anyways.

**Q. Every good thing that happens from here on, I think it's got to be particularly special.**

**BART BRYANT:** It is, yeah. Being out here playing is particularly special, but to be able to win last week and shoot some good scores this year is pretty cool because I didn't expect it quite this soon, if ever.

**Q. Did the doctors ever give you any kind of percentage of --**

**BART BRYANT:** Well, yeah, when we did the second one, he didn't really say much but when we did the first one, he said, I don't know what's going to happen. I actually went up to see the guy in New York, you know Jim Furyk had some wrist issues, Trevor Immelman, Luke Donald all saw this guy in New York. I went up and saw him and he said, I think you're going to have to try the surgery. He said, As far as I know, it's never been done on a golfer, but I think it's your only shot. He said, Can you play now? I go, no. He says, Well, you might as well try it and see. So we tried it, we did it twice. He actually didn't do it, a guy that he knew did it in Orlando, but he did a great job. He kind of told me if I did get back to playing, it would probably be a week on and then a whole week off, but I've already played three weeks in a row since I've been back, which I'm sure he is thoroughly surprised.

**Q. Does it feel weird to be a rookie?**

**BART BRYANT:** You know what, it feels kind of good a little bit maybe, but the thing is I just know everybody out here so well. When you're a rookie on the PGA TOUR, you're playing with all these great players that you've only seen on TV and you haven't been around. I've been around all these guys, I played with them and had a little success playing amongst them, so it's not like being a true rookie, but it is fun being the young guy, I'll say that.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Bart, we'll let you go, good luck tomorrow.