

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT:
HARRIS ENGLISH & MATT KUCHAR
Sunday, December 15, 2013**



(interview in progress)

MATT KUCHAR: I think you talk to guys top to bottom, even the guys that may not perform well have a great time here. It was nice to come here and perform well. We made a boatload of birdies. It was a fun three days for sure.

DAVE SENKO: Harris?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, just like Matt said, it's such a relaxing week playing a team event, playing with a bunch of your buddies out here. Small field. It's just really, really cool being a part of this event. Greg Norman does a great job hosting it, and getting to play with him the first day was unbelievable. Obviously having a great partner like Matt made it very special. It was unfortunate Brandt got injured and I filled in, but we made the best of it and had a good week.

DAVE SENKO: 12 birdies and an eagle, were there any (inaudible) on any of those birdies, any bombs?

MATT KUCHAR: No real long ones. The kickstarter was probably 4. We parred 2 and 3 and then Harris made a nice 15 footer on 4 to kind of kickstart us. With that he backed it right up on 5, the par 3, probably 20 feet up the hill. It was pretty much on from then. It was kind of a little rainy, a little nasty early on in our round the first kind of four holes. Four, five holes were rainy and not so nice. It was nice to see Harris make the putt on 4 and then back it up with a putt on 5 was -- after missing on 2 and 3, after missing birdies you kind of think we need to get it going and it was nice to get it going with birdies on 4 and 5.

DAVE SENKO: Maybe just take us through the eagle as well.

MATT KUCHAR: The eagle was -- I had just gotten word from Scott McCarron that he and Faxon had the record at 33 under and we were sitting at 32 under. Certainly 17's a birdie hole. I figured, well, his record's not going to stand, we're most likely going to tie or break that record.

Harris hit a great drive, only had 200 to the front, I think it was 217 to the hole into a little bit of wind. I had a hybrid club that in those conditions needs to be hit well. I hit it perfectly and knew that when I hit it it was going to turn out good, went to probably eight feet for eagle. Again, it was another hole I didn't have to putt. Harris poured another one right in the middle.

Q. Matt mentioned that you got that 15 footer. At that point after three holes they had drawn within three shots and basically that may have been the backbreaker back then because from that point on it got to be 4 ahead of them, 5 ahead of them. Did you feel like hitting those two putts were real key early on?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I think it's huge, especially in this format you've got to make putts. Everybody's going to hit it, have a lot of 10 to 15 footers and you've got to make those. Having such a good putter as Matt backing me up, I can go ahead and give it a free stroke and make a free run at it because I know he's going to get a good look and he's got a really, really good chance of making it. It took a lot of pressure off me to putt first and just give it a good run at it, and I got hot with the putter and kept it rolling. I mean, especially after we didn't make birdies on 2 and 3 you kind of bear down a little bit saying we've got to get it rolling.

Q. Matt, Retief was mentioning that yesterday you were knocking down a lot of putts and you said today Harris was, so I guess you could call him a super sub with him joining you here?

MATT KUCHAR: Any team that shoots the numbers that we've shot you've got both guys doing some good things. Yesterday I had it going, today he had it going. It was a fun ride for sure.

Q. And it sounds like when Brandt had to pull out, you had a pretty good idea of who you wanted almost right away it sounded like, right?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah, I knew Harris came off a win in Mexico. We play a lot together. He's a solid player and I was actually thinking it might be a little bit even more advantageous to have a guy that hits it, you know, another 15 yards past me. Brandt and I hit it very similar off the tee. You get a few shorter irons in my hand, it makes the game that much easier. In this format getting to play his drive a lot, whether it was the alternate shot or the scramble, getting to play from where he hits it and having him kind of there to back me up was a good feeling and a lot of fun.

Q. Is this like a future Ryder Cup captain thing for you, you know who to pick and put on the team?

MATT KUCHAR: I think Harris is going to find himself on a lot of teams. He would be a fun guy to have on the team and you want guys that are great players and steady players and he's proved himself that.

Q. Matt, I don't know if they asked you this because I've been out interviewing your wife for the last 10 minutes, do you remember winning in Naples as a teen?

MATT KUCHAR: Naples National, the Terracotta event, yes.

Q. Who did you beat in the semi finals?

MATT KUCHAR: I think it was Sergio, we had a match.

Q. Pretty good memory.

MATT KUCHAR: Do you remember who I played in the finals? That, I don't know.

Q. No, I think it was rigged so you would win.

MATT KUCHAR: I love those events.

Q. Kind of like this week. And then the next spring you had the Masters where you played with Tiger and you were kind of tied for the lead until you double bogeyed 15, if I remember right, or bogeyed 16. You could have had the first round lead and everyone was calling you the next great American player and it didn't happen right away. What happened?

MATT KUCHAR: That's a big title, big shoes to fill. My game wasn't -- my game was streaky back then, I could play some really good golf but it wasn't going to perform well week in and week out. I was a 19 year old kid and I could get it going and really go low, but I wasn't -- my game definitely wasn't ready to take on the best in the world week in and week out. I could throw my hat in the ring for a few good weeks here and there, but it's a thing where you try to play the best in the world, you try to take on Tiger Woods and Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson. I had some fun with a couple weeks, but it took me a while to find the game that really can last out here. I had a game that could pop up for good weeks, but I didn't have a game that could last.

Q. Was there a moment, a turning point that that did happen? I know you went back to the Nationwide Tour.

MATT KUCHAR: It's kind of I feel like I've had these stepping stones, kind of like I just graduated up to better levels like you would go through school. In order to get to middle school, you graduate elementary school. In order to get to high school, you graduate middle school and so on. I've kind of made those steps and I think they've been small steps. I've talked to people about how you get better. Out here fractions make a difference. You improve by a half a shot a round, that's two shots a tournament, that's a big deal. You do that over a couple years, you've made huge improvements. So it's little steps that make a big difference out here.

Q. Your wife did say going back to the Nationwide kind of reenergized you.

MATT KUCHAR: To be honest, I would say that it was that year I happened to be on Nationwide that I connected with my instructor Chris O'Connell. I would tell you that's the difference. I would tell you he's been a guy that's been the difference in my game evolving to a point where I can play well week in and week out.

Q. And what did you do 10 years ago this week?

MATT KUCHAR: 10 years ago this week, I was on honeymoon and finished off my honeymoon right here. That was a fun story. One of my first dates with my wife was here. I was finally able to convince her to at least come see me and it was down here. We were engaged probably six months later, married within a year.

We were on honeymoon and I got a call, we were probably four weeks into honeymoon and got a call that there was a spot open and they wanted to see if we would play. I think we had a stop in Hawaii we had to make before we came home and I said, What do you think about cutting the stopover in Hawaii and going down to Naples? She said, Yeah, that was like our first date. I was glad to come down and take part in the Shark Shootout again.

Q. The last 16 years, where do you think you've grown the most? And I guess the other question along those lines is are you happy with where your game's at right now?

MATT KUCHAR: Consistency. I just went over this story. Consistency's been the thing I'm most pleased of, happiest. Am I happy? I think the beautiful thing about the game of golf is there's so much room for improvement. I talked to Harris about this while we were on the course. You have things to work on. You can never be a good enough driver of the golf ball, never be a good enough wedgier, chipper, putter of the golf ball. It's kind of an infinite level to continue to strive in those areas. No, I don't know that any golfer's ever satisfied and I think that's kind of the addictive property about the game is there's always room to get better.

Q. One of the things I believe the Golf Channel announcers were mentioning is how well you were able to read the greens. Is that something that has evolved or did you just have that knack from the start?

MATT KUCHAR: I've always been a pretty good putter. I certainly haven't worked at reading greens. I've never put effort into reading greens, but I would say I'm a better green reader today than I was 10 years ago. I would say experience. It's just one of those things where a lot of courses I make notes in my book as to putts that fool me. But for the most part I feel like I've seen enough variety in different greens, different surfaces that we play on that I've learned to be a pretty good reader.

Q. Harris, first question, what would you have been doing had you not been here?

HARRIS ENGLISH: This definitely takes the cake, for sure. I would be probably sitting at home not playing a whole lot of golf. I took a good two weeks off after Mexico. Once I got word that I was going to play with Matt, I started practicing and getting ready for a tournament because that's what I like to do, I like practicing for a tournament. And to have four, five, six weeks off before Maui, I probably would have taken some good time off and hung out at the house. But I'm so glad that he called me to play and I could be here and have a great week.

Q. Could you guys sense that you were on a record setting pace or were you guys just so focused on each hole?

HARRIS ENGLISH: You just get to a point where, or I do, just birdieing every hole. I don't think about what score we're at, how many we're up. You get in a rhythm of I'm going to make birdie this hole, I'm going to try to make every putt, hit every shot good. That's how I get. You can't really think about, hey, we're doing something over the top or spectacular here, we've got one more putt to make the record. It kind of gave us a little jump there when Scott McCarron said, Hey, our record was 31 or 32 under.

MATT KUCHAR: 33.

HARRIS ENGLISH: We were like, Hey, we're going to beat that.

Q. Matt, I know you've been here before. What is it about this tournament that maybe separates itself? I know they call it the silly season, but once you guys tee it up, is it as serious as any other tournament?

MATT KUCHAR: No, it's not as serious as any other tournament. I think that's why guys enjoy coming. We play a lot of 72 hole stroke play events. It's fun to have a partner. There's really not many events outside of the Ryder Cups, President Cups where you're part of a team, so it's kind of okay to miss a shot here or there on a couple of the formats because you've got a partner to back you up. So it's not as stressful. I love it. I wish there was more, whether it be match play, whether it be some other format other than 72 hole stroke play. But this is great. I think at this time of year it's like spring training for us. This is kind of getting back in and everybody's having fun, everybody's kind of gearing up for the season to begin. Like spring training in baseball, everybody just loves the atmosphere. You've got a chance, you've got a chance to have a great year. You can't wait for the season to get here and I think that's the way I kind of look at this time of year and this event.

Q. Did you say you had a four week honeymoon going on?

MATT KUCHAR: Yeah.

Q. That's awesome.

MATT KUCHAR: It was awesome, it was awesome.

Q. Nothing but style, right?

MATT KUCHAR: That's right. Our honeymoon was through New Zealand and Australia. We stopped in Hawaii before. If you're going to make that kind of trip, you don't want it to be a week long. We figured I had some off time. It was this time of year so it was off season. We had some time, so we figured we'd enjoy it.

Q. Harris, what did you learn the most this week just watching him? I know you guys have played together a lot, but did you pick up anything from this week?

HARRIS ENGLISH: It's really cool actually being on his team instead of playing with him in a tournament where I'm not going to go ask him like hey, how do you hit this shot or hey, help me read this putt. So it's really cool kind of seeing how he thinks on the golf course and how he goes through each shot and how he deals with a bad shot or a good shot. It's really cool to learn from that. And obviously he's one of the best and I can learn a lot from him and definitely learned a lot this week.