# FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: BRIAN HARMAN (-10)

May 7, 2017



**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** We would like to welcome 2017 Wells Fargo Championship winner Brian Harman. Brian, winning in dramatic fashion there. Besides the mathematical difference, what do you think now is the difference between being a one-time PGA Tour win and two-time?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** I was just telling Jeremy Elliott that number two is really sweet. Number one, you can make all these excuses. Oh, is that the only one that's going to happen or whatever. But number two feels really good.

**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** Moving to the top-10 of the FedExCup, how does this win set up the rest of your season?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I haven't really thought about it. Just like when you win your first tournament, all these things start happening right afterwards, so I'm just going to enjoy this moment. I'm going to get home tonight with my family and I'm going to really, really think about this one a lot.

# Q. The chip on 18, what were you thinking in terms of winning the tournament and how much did it change after the chip?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I didn't hit a great chip, but I didn't hit a horrible chip, either. I had some tree limbs. I really needed to go vertical with it. I had a good lie to go vertical with it and it would have been no problem, but I couldn't keep it up underneath those limbs, so I was kind of caught in between. If you get something that's too low, it's going to run through, which I wasn't too afraid of that because I at least had an uphill putt coming back. But I did my best there and it didn't turn out very good, but I guess it was right where it was supposed to be.

# Q. What was it about this golf course (inaudible)?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** We actually came up a couple weeks ago, me and Patton Kizzire, Harris English and Hudson Swafford. We came up and played the course an afternoon, played the next morning, stayed in the cabins here. We were just blown away with how nice the place was. Just I was like -- I even made the comment, we could play here tomorrow. It was firm and fast. This is a championship golf course. The greens are firm. Even with all that rain we got, what was that, Thursday night, it was as firm as you could ever want it to be.

#### Q. How did it fit your game?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Yeah, actually, when I played it a couple weeks ago, I actually thought

like, man, this is a real bomber's paradise, 18 and a couple of the par 5s on the front. Like if you can carry like that magic number seems to be like 290, 300 yards, if you can carry it, kind of catches the downslope and runs down there a little bit. So I knew I was going to have to really have a good game plan to compete this week. I knew that if I could hit a bunch of greens and putt it well that I would still have a chance.

## Q. (No microphone.)

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Yeah, a resounding yes. It's very hard to stay patient because you know what it feels like to win, you know what it takes. You feel like you're capable of it but it just doesn't happen. And then it doesn't happen again and it doesn't happen again, and then that's where the doubt starts to creep in. So this one feels very good.

## Q. After the three-putt at 15, what did you say to yourself walking to 16?

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, that three-putt was not good. I hit a really good shot in there. I was really happy, got a hard bounce, hit up on the back of the green, and these greens can be so tough. I'm going straight downhill, down-grain. I've got wind back in my face and the wind's kind of, you know, pumping in and out. I just didn't hit a very good first putt and hit an okay second putt, but just, you know, when you've got seven or eight feet for par, those are tough to make in the hunt. But yeah, I missed that putt. I said, well, there's a couple different ways you can think about this. You can think about it like, man, I might have just cost myself a tournament. Well, no, not necessarily, just kept on going. That's all you can do.

Q. You changed clubs for the second shot going into 18 --

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Should have stuck with the first one.

Q. Well, you went back to the bag. I think everyone thought, okay, he's going to grab and iron and he's going to lay up. Did it ever cross your mind to lay up?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Not after the tee shot, not after I saw where the tee shot was. I thought -- standing on the tee box, I was like all right, I'm going to go and be aggressive with this. I wasn't going to go for it if it was -- because there was a little bit of a downhill slope there. I was like, if my ball's on the downhill slope, I'm not going to go for it. I'm going to lay up, I'm going to give my wedge a chance to win the tournament. But it got down that hill and was on a little bit of an up-slope and I was like, well, there's no decision here.

Q. The reaction was great when the ball went in. Were you a tiny bit worried that you were going to take your arm off?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** I blacked out, I don't know what happened. I can't wait to watch it. I mean, I have no idea what happened. I don't know what I did.

Q. You gave a hundred mile an hour high five.

BRIAN HARMAN: Perfect. My hand feels good.

Q. (Inaudible) watching what you were doing over the last hour and what were you hopeful of wanting to do say (inaudible)?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I tried not to look at it. I knew that if I made some birdies coming in, I knew that I could win the tournament. Then I don't think that the -- I heard Dustin make birdie on 18 and figured that he had gotten to 9 or 10, I wasn't sure which one, but I was at 9 at the moment. I said if I can get one more, then I have a chance to win on 18 and that's what I was thinking. I figured if I got it to 10 -- I really wanted to get it to 11. I was really more focused on just trying to hit good shots and I knew I would be right there.

Q. If someone told you you get to the par 5 18th and you need birdie to win and make birdie, how would you have drawn it up?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Differently, differently. I would have hit a 5-wood to the front left of the green and then lagged one up to a couple feet and tapped it in. But yeah, flare for the dramatic, I suppose.

Q. I hope this question doesn't come off the wrong way, but you're the first guy to beat Dustin since Los Angeles. Considering the run he's on, does that give you a little extra boost?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, they had the jacket 40 long, so I think they already had it set up for Dustin. He's a tough cookie, man. Whatever he shot, 3, 4 over in the second round and -- or was it the -- yeah. And then the weekend he shoots, what, 4 under, 5 under, 5 under, 6 under, something like that? He's tough.

Q. Is (inaudible) 40 long?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** He might.

Q. You mentioned this place is set up for bombers. Obviously Dustin fit that bill, Jon Rahm fit that bill. Do you feel kind of overlooked or do you feel like --

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I would be lying if I didn't say I had a little bit of a chip on my shoulder. I mean, this is the first time I've been interviewed all week, so I'm glad --

Q. (No microphone.)

**BRIAN HARMAN:** But that's before the tournament.

Q. Did you get validation today?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** It feels good, for sure.

Q. Brian, you won once in 2014 but I heard you say you just knew you were close. Talk about the perseverance it takes to go that long and play that well and not get over the hump.

BRIAN HARMAN: It's hard. These guys are so good out here and I kind of felt it coming. I played really well the last couple weeks. I made the cut on the number at Harbour Town and I was one shot back on Sunday, just had a really good chance there, I left that tournament like man, I think I should have had that, I really should have had that one. And then Johnson Wagner and I played last week in New Orleans and both of us played pretty well. I said I think I'll give it a good go next week. It was nice to play well on Sunday.

Q. I was going to ask you, it's been a while since your last win. Is there anything you can take away from these last couple days?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I definitely learned from my first win. I worked so hard that year, really felt like it was my time to win and I did it and I won. It was like almost like -- I was like well, I quit doing the things that got me to where I was. Not that I -- I just kind of mentally took a break. I just took a break because it's really hard to do, and I'm not going to do that this time. I want to keep competing, I want to keep getting myself in position to win tournaments. It's what I love to do. When I lay down at night, that's what I think about. For me it's about winning tournaments and it's about getting in contention.

Q. With this being a one-time event here, just talk about your experience in Wilmington.

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I think it would be silly not to play here again honestly. It's a championship quality golf course. The greens are very difficult, very firm. The course is playing long. You know, it takes a lot of thought off the tee, a lot of thought coming into the greens, and I've heard more than one guy say this place reminds them of Augusta more than any other place. It's a championship golf course.

Q. In reference to your last win in 2014, biggest difference I can see between then and now is sitting in the corner of the room right now as the rest of Team Harman.

**BRIAN HARMAN:** That's right.

Q. Speak to the difference in satisfaction between winning when you're a bachelor on the PGA Tour and winning when you're a father and a husband.

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I was almost married when I won the first time, but my wife Kelly, she's my rock. She's been amazing. Having Cooper here this week, yeah, I had them come up last minute. They weren't coming originally. They came up last minute and we got us a

little house and everything is just great. The house is perfect. It's just such a great week.

#### Q. I asked (inaudible) and he said you do look at leaderboards?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Yes.

## Q. Is that something you try not to?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Yeah, him and I are going to disagree on this because I like knowing what I need to do. Today I didn't need to look at the leaderboards because I was on the -- I knew how the course was playing. I wasn't hearing all the murmurs, so I knew no one was running away with it. So I knew if I just stayed in my lane that I was going to have a really good chance.

So today he was right, I didn't need to be looking at leaderboards. But coming up 18, I needed to know where I was. If I've got a one-shot lead, you probably lay that ball up. So it's good and bad. I think if it helps you, you should look at it, but if it doesn't, you probably shouldn't.

Q. There was a lot of wind in the first three days. Did you have a moment where you got out of position or got on a hole where you thought maybe you might shoot yourself out of it because it's such a test of survival?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Yeah, I was really proud of the round I played on Friday. I thought that might have been the best round I played all week. It was really tough and I just played really smart golf all day. I knew it was hard. I knew everyone's going to struggle, and I got out of there in 3 under, which I think is the low round. I think there's three or four 3 unders.

But I was really proud because that was kind of a day that I didn't feel great, I didn't really like the conditions, I didn't feel like I was in control a lot, but I just stayed in my lane and kept doing as good as I could and ended up with a 3 under, but that day's all about surviving. That day's all about not shooting 2 over and losing the golf tournament.

Q. This is a question more for 10 years ago, but is it more meaningful when you have a guy like Dustin in the field?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Yeah, it is. Whenever you have the No. 1 player in the field, it means something. The guy's had a great year and I'm glad he finished at 9 under today.

#### Q. Too early to think about Augusta next year?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** It has crossed my mind. It's going to be really nice to get another shot hat Augusta. I didn't do well there last time, so I'm really looking forward to that. That's a special event for me. I'll be looking forward to the next few majors, for sure.

Q. You've had a really storied career, starting with juniors all the way up. Have you ever birdied the last two to win?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Not that I remember. I don't know if I birdied the last two to win. I know I birdied the last to win a tournament. I don't think I've ever birdied the last two.

Q. So THE PLAYERS is coming up. What have your experiences been like at TPC Sawgrass?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** I love that place. I had a top-10 there two years ago, I think. I had a decent chance on Sunday the year that Kizzire and Rickie were in the playoff. I finished -- I think I finished two or three back of them. I played pretty well Sunday, I just couldn't make any putts. I like the course a lot, fits my game. You don't have to hit it so far to compete around there and I think since that tournament has moved to May, it's been such a great golf tournament. So firm, so fast and the crowds are just amazing.

Q. (Question about Sea Island.)

**BRIAN HARMAN:** We go to Bubba's. Bubba's up. Big party town.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRIAN HARMAN: Oh, yeah.

Q. Brian, could you talk about your thoughts after the chip shot on 18, what you were thinking?

**BRIAN HARMAN:** Well, I mean, I was disappointed with the chip because if that ball would have carried just a little further, it could have pitched and drilled right on down there. But as pure as these greens are, downhill putts, once they start on line they don't -- they don't really wobble off. So that one got about five feet from the hole and it looked really good.

**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** Brian, congratulations. Thank you for your time and enjoy your celebration.