

MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome Patrick Reed to the interview room at the Quicken Loans National. Patrick, you come in here off a T-5 last week at Travelers and you've kind of been trending in the right direction. I was looking at your stats the last five or six tournaments you played, you had that T-5 and a couple of other top-15 finishes, and I remember talking to you halfway through the year and you were struggling with your equipment a little bit, so it seems like you've got that in place. Is that the case?

PATRICK REED: Yeah, it is. We worked really hard with the team and we were able to get our bags set to where we feel really comfortable. You know, with how the start was earlier this year, to have the team and to have Callaway to really hit it hard with me and get everything exactly where we needed to be allowed us to flip this around and start playing and shoot numbers that we're supposed to be shooting.

MARK WILLIAMS: You're currently No. 53 in the FedExCup and you had your best finish last year, you finished third. Looking to get back into the top 5 or top 30 to get yourself to the TOUR Championship, do you think you need a victory, or is that on the horizon for you, do you feel?

PATRICK REED: Yeah, I feel like I'm playing well enough to win, but really, at the end of the day, the way to get inside the top 30 on FedEx and the way to win the FedExCup is, of course, to win golf tournaments. But you just need to keep on putting yourself in position, because if I put myself in position to win golf tournaments enough, then winning will take care of itself.

Now, that's just kind of key, especially on places like this and golf courses where 2, 3 under par a day is pretty good. You just need to give yourself opportunities and not press too hard because it's easy to do.

Q. Kessler, your caddie, says this is the hardest golf course in the history of mankind. How difficult is it?

PATRICK REED: Well, to Kessler, you know, I basically only got through the second hole so far. I mean, he's acting as if 85-over par's going to win this golf tournament.

But no, the golf course is challenging. It's a great golf course. It's one of those that if you hit in the fairways and you have control with your irons, you can attack the golf course. But at the same time, the greens are really firm and there are some slopes in the greens where even if you hit a drive down the fairway, you have to pay attention because you can hit iron shots that you think are going to be pretty good end up on the wrong side of the slope. Next thing you know you have 30, 35 feet to the hole and you

might have only missed your spot by a yard. It's a good test, it's a challenging one.

Today was the first time seeing the back nine. After seeing the front nine, yeah, okay, if you hit the ball in the fairway, you can get this golf course. The back nine is a lot different than the front. You've got water on one side, OB on the other, lot of fairways kind of cutting different directions and greens going the opposite ways. So the back nine is a challenging one. It's just going to take a lot of patience and a lot of good golf shots to go out and shoot a low number.

Q. Patrick, obviously we all wish Tiger Woods the best with what he's going through, but does it hurt this tournament at all to not have him here even in a hosting capacity?

PATRICK REED: Yeah, I mean, Tiger's here in spirit, you know. It's his event. His foundation's running the golf tournament. It's never going to hurt the golf tournament or hurt any event, just to have his name a part of it means a lot because of how much he means to golf. It's one of those things that we all would love for him to be here, but at the end of the day for him to put his foot down and go ahead and take care of himself and try to get better, that's more important than playing golf or being here for a golf tournament.

So we all wish him the best and we want him out here, every one of us. The players, people running golf tournaments, sponsors, everybody wants Tiger Woods out here. The more he can take care of himself, then we're going to get the old Tiger back.

Q. Justin Thomas said earlier that he was so burned out after the U.S. Open that he was almost glad he missed the cut at the Travelers. You play a lot, more than almost anyone in the top 20 in the world, I think, so do you ever get tired or burned out playing all these events?

PATRICK REED: The only time I actually felt like I was fatigued enough where I shouldn't have been playing was after Ryder Cup. I took off two weeks and went over, played in Malaysia and China. Malaysia was 150 degrees and China is never an easy task after playing Malaysia.

But it just all depends. Everyone's body is different. For me, I prefer to be out there competing and going out and playing golf and playing golf tournaments, but other players like to play less load and really feel real ready each time they come out and play.

I'm a gamer, though. I could step up on the driving range and hit balls all day and I guarantee what happens on the driving would be completely opposite than what happens on the golf course. You're on the driving range trying to make a golf swing, you're on the golf course trying to hit a golf shot. It's just two different mindsets.

Q. Patrick, the PGA Tour hasn't been back here since 2006. You haven't played here competitively in a PGA Tour event. How does that, how does your preparation change when you come to a new venue? And is it harder physically to get ready for or is it harder mentally?

PATRICK REED: My preparation doesn't change from event to event whether I've seen the golf course 30 times or I've never seen the golf course before. I usually play nine holes on Tuesday and then the pro-am on Wednesday. My prep doesn't really change. The only times my preparation would ever change is if I'm working on something in the golf swing or something in my game, but not because of a venue.

You know, really, I think the biggest thing this week is more kind of mental than physical. The back nine, yes. The back nine, there's some hilly, hard walks. But at the end of the day, if you start on the front, you see fairway, rough and then there's some wide areas. You hit a tee shot, you miss it offline, it's okay.

Then all of a sudden right when you step on No. 10 tee, you have OB seems like five yards right of the fairway and you have a hazard on the left edge of the fairway. Get to 11, same thing. So it just kind of plays with you on kind of lines and also kind of mentally on how narrow are these fairways. When you get to the back nine, the first couple seem like they're an inch wide, but really when you get out and stand in the middle of the fairway, you're like oh, this is still 30, 35 yards wide, this is still a generous fairway.

Q. Patrick, wanted to ask you about the British Open. You've played in it a few times now. Just wondering if you have a different perception of it having had a few under your belt than what you had going into it, like what your expectations were and how they might have changed as far as how you play that style of golf?

PATRICK REED: It's more of a patience thing at the British. You're going to have a lot of good golf shots there that end up hitting just barely the wrong side of a knob and end up in a really bad spot. You'll have other shots that you hit where you're like, oh, that's so dead, and next thing you know it hits a knob on the green and ends up decent.

I feel like the first couple times playing I tried to do too much, tried to hit too low of golf shots or too much of a draw or too much of a cut trying to hold things. But when you're over there, golf is just, you know, to play the ball and just let it react with how the ground is. It's one of those things that instead of trying to fight the elements, just allow the elements to take over and just play accordingly.

It's one of those things that patience that week is a key because you're going to get spells where for 30 minutes it's going to blow 40, and then you're going to get spells where you have 30, 45 minutes where there's no wind at all. Those are times you're going to need to capitalize. You can't be frustrated that 30 minutes ago it was blowing 40 and you played two of the holes that are supposed to be easy, now all of a sudden

they're very difficult. Now all of a sudden you get to the hard holes and there's no wind. Just things like that that you just need to be able to handle it mentally.

Q. Have you found at all that distance is negated there or not as big of a deal because of the ball running out or the bunkers being so penal?

PATRICK REED: It depends. A lot of those golf courses, like I felt like last year distance was a huge factor. If you had that extra distance, you're fine because that back nine seemed to always play into the wind and you have so many 480-, 470-yard holes that even in the wind with how hard it blows, the ball's not rolling that much. But when you get downwind, they're rolling a ton, which yeah, you're not hitting driver, you're hitting back from where everyone else is, but it also means you have a short iron into the green.

It all depends kind of venue to venue on the type of golf course. You know, anytime you can hit the ball farther it always helps because that means less club you have to hit off the tee or softer shots you can hit to keep it out of the wind, or when it's pumping into the wind or right to left, you can hit a cut and hold it and you're not having to get that extra distance and draw it with the wind where it's just going to be harder to control on the ground.

Q. Patrick, what else, other than getting your clubs dialed in, what else have you found in your game specifically the last couple weeks that's really been kind of making your game to trend in the direction that it's going?

PATRICK REED: I think the biggest thing is my swing's getting a little more consistent. There's a couple things we're working on. Really, the same kind of stuff I've been working on for two years, but now it seems like on my bad days the golf swing is closer than in the past. So instead of missing it 30 yards offline, you're missing it 15 yards offline.

Anytime you can get your misses a lot more closer to the start lines, the better off you're going to be. I think it's just kind of going into it a different way. Rather than going out with so high expectations — “I have to shoot 65, I have to win this week, if I don't it's a failed week” — has kind of put a little too much pressure on myself to go produce numbers rather than just go out and play golf.

I'll always know my expectation is to win every golf tournament I step up and play, but when you're out there playing, that's not what you can think about. You've got to go out there and think about, okay, what are you trying to do, and that's hit a quality golf shot. If you can do that, then add them up at the end.

MARK WILLIAMS: Patrick, we appreciate your time and good luck in the Quicken Loans National this week.