

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
September 23, 2017

PAUL CASEY (-12)



Q. What an incredible Saturday, more highs than lows definitely, spectacular round today.

PAUL CASEY: Thank you. Yeah, it was really good stuff. Got off to a good start, hot in the middle of that front nine. Yeah, I made a couple of errors in there but really excited. Glad to sort of stay on top of this leaderboard, glad to be a couple ahead. Super excited for tomorrow.

Q. The putt that goes down on 11 just sort of restarted momentum for you, but I still think the tee shots that you hit on 13 and 14, holes that have given you a little bit of trouble the last couple days, were really to be the key of that back nine for you?

PAUL CASEY: They were and it was uncharacteristic yesterday. 13 I never had an issue with that tee shot before, it was just a poor tee shot. No pressure, just poor tee shot. And then 14 I backed -- sorry, 12 and 13 yesterday, poor tee shots.

Today, really good stuff and that was the key. This is a golf course that as soon as you get out of position you're kind of -- the hole's kind of done, you've lost the opportunity. Other golf courses you can kind of get it back with a good recovery shot or good chip, but here not so much. So it will be the key tomorrow, drive it well, and I've driven it really well so far this week. It's definitely the key tomorrow, just smash it around this golf course and try to make as many birdies as I can.

Q. I thought your speed on the greens was spectacular, kind of cathartic to get the one to go down on 17 the way you've been lagging them up there all day?

PAUL CASEY: Yeah, it was nice because we dropped down to 3-wood purely because there was a little bit of we felt assistance with the wind, and you saw where JT hit his drive. It gets very narrow when you're going with driver off that tee. And I'm trying to be more aggressive on this golf course and stick to the game plan, and of course then I mis-hit that 3-wood off the tee which left myself quite a long way back, 160 yards. I went straight at it with a 9. I just pulled it and we were having a debate as to the best side to be. Johnny said right, I said left of the pin. Obviously I finished left because I pulled it and I said I told you so. You need to make putts like that if you want to be on top of the leaderboards and if you want to win. Sometimes the odd error, which it's not my best 9-iron in the world, it's nice to roll in a long putt like that because it wasn't an easy one.

Q. You and Kevin tomorrow, but when you look at the rest of it there's sort of some separation with other guys that are in the field. Today was a really good day not just

for how you played but for what it kind of gives you in terms of flexibility tomorrow?

PAUL CASEY: Very much so. BMW Championship last year, FedExCup Playoffs, Dustin and I separated ourselves from the field. Obviously he came out on top that day but it would be nice tomorrow if Kiz and I do separate ourselves even more from the field and have a shootout. Obviously having a two-shot advantage over him is big. I wouldn't like to be giving away two to Kiz so I'm sure he won't be enjoying giving away two to me.

I think the cool thing about the whole thing with the two of us playing in the final pairing is we both became fathers again. My little girl was born September 11th and his little boy was born I think maybe two or three days prior to that. So two guys who have got probably more important things at home, maybe that's given us a real nice relaxed attitude on the golf course this week and look where it's put us.

Q. Another great day by Paul Casey. Paul, this round reminded me of your round on Friday, cruising along and you had back-to-back bogeys and then you bounced back and were under par after that. How would you assess this day?

PAUL CASEY: Another really solid day, I struck the driver beautifully. It's I think the key to playing this golf course well, we've got to get it in play straightaway. Yeah, it was frustrating, especially being in the center of that eighth fairway, maybe just caught a bit of grass between the ball and the club and it rode up the face, buried in the bunker. Tough from there. Then not a good tee shot on the ninth and apparently all kinds of people having problems with the right bunker not only myself, just not much sand in there. Frustrating, but it's how you react. To get it back on the back nine was key. Excited that I'm in the final pairing with Kiz tomorrow. The dads are out in the final group.

Q. They are. Considering all the variables in play not only with the TOUR Championship but the FedExCup, how important was that number today for you heading into tomorrow?

PAUL CASEY: Clearly, very. My focus is very much on trying to win the TOUR Championship. The FedExCup is a wonderful thing that goes with great play tomorrow. I look at it as kind of a bonus for season-long success. I can't focus on the FedExCup tomorrow. I know it's what everybody will be talking about but I'm trying to win the TOUR Championship. Hopefully that's good enough, you never know. I played with JT. Obviously he had a slightly off day today. I'm sure he'll be raring to go tomorrow and probably tear it up tomorrow. Jordan, I don't know how far back he is. Multiple scenarios, a lot of which I can't worry about, nor which I can control. I can only control myself.

Q. Do you want to know the variables for the FedExCup?

PAUL CASEY: I've been told them but they went in one ear and out the other. All I know is that none of them matter if I don't win, so I have to win.