

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**January 26, 2018**



**RYAN PALMER (-11)**

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**Q. Ryan, a couple bogeys early, but man, you finished strong, eagle at 17, a great birdie at 18. You've got to feel like you're flying high right now.**

**RYAN PALMER:** Yeah, no, it was a little shaky start. I think we started off on the three hardest holes with pin placements, the way the greens are bouncing. I mean the firmness was pretty good today. But James and I talked about before the round, let's just play the par 5s, let's hit the middle of the greens, and with that golf course and the way the greens were, we played the par 5s, we'd be good. Got a nice chip in-on 9 and made some other good birdie putts. Of course the one on the last and an awesome 7-iron on 17 to about six feet, yeah, what a way to end the day.

**Q. And your putting was really, really good. It's been good for two days. I know you've been working hard on it, you retired the old Rossie II, you've got an Odyssey mallet head, it's working great.**

**RYAN PALMER:** Yeah, it is. The one thing we did this winter was he just kind of said just stay with it, quit changing putters when you're out there playing, just let's dedicate to the claw with the Flat Cat grip and just work your way through it. You'll have good and bad days, but yeah, it's been great. A lot of work with Neal Smith with my mental approach on the greens, my routines, so a great team behind me and it's been awesome.

**Q. I'm with the leader, Ryan Palmer, second straight day you put together a nice number, 67 highlighted by that eagle-birdie finish on the North course. How do you close out so strong?**

**RYAN PALMER:** Just stayed calm all day. Got off to a rough start obviously bogeying the first two holes. I think they're probably the three hardest holes on the golf course today on that North side. Concrete greens today, I think, and some dicey pin placements where they were. But James and I talked about let's just play the par 5s today, get the ball on the green as much as we can and take care of the par 5s and we were able to do that. Got a nice chip-in on 9 for eagle, and of course the finish, hit a great 7-iron on 17 about six feet, and then a good drive on 18 and it's always nice to make a long putt when you finish a round, so yeah, fun, exciting day.

**Q. Ryan, many congratulations on an excellent round. It started slowly, a couple over through 4, but then you had a hot spell around the turn where you were 4 under par through three holes. Just tell us about that run.**

**RYAN PALMER:** Yeah, it was a little shaky start. I said earlier probably the hardest three

holes on the golf course are the first three, I think, with the way the greens were bouncing and some of the pin placements. But James and I talked about just playing the par 5s today and we were able to do that. Obviously chipping in at 9 for eagle and then coming back to a nice easy two-putt birdie on 10, and of course a nice chip shot birdie at 11. But I hit a great 7-iron on 17 and made a long putt on the last hole on 18. So just a calm day, never got really frustrated or behind or in front of myself, so salvaged a great round.

**Q. You've not been here very much since 2004, just four times. Why back this year?**

**RYAN PALMER:** You know, James and I talked about our schedule and I hadn't fared too well at Pebble Beach in years past, so he thought let's just come out strong and play San Diego this year. He thinks the golf course is perfect for me the way I've been driving it, I've been getting out there a pretty good distance, and the way it's set up and so far he's right. So plus I get two weeks at home after next week to move into a new house. But no, I've enjoyed coming back here. I know Peter Ripa, the tournament director, real well from our Colonial days so I'm excited to be back in San Diego.

**Q. Difficult times for you off the course recently, obviously your own shoulder and your wife's battle with cancer. Has it given you a different perspective coming out this year?**

**RYAN PALMER:** It has. After last year half we kind of feel like it's in our rearview mirror now as far as just with Jennifer and things we were going through with her, but a lot of her scans have been clear and she's feeling great so that's been nice coming out here. And obviously getting over my shoulder, which I chose to go ahead and get it done. I got here healthy. Dr. Van Biezen and Manny back home got my body in shape and ready to go, so about to move in, which is nice. The building process is over there, too, so a lot of distractions behind me I think so we're definitely playing a little more free and clear.

**Q. Excellent way to finish your round. How would you assess your play out there today?**

**RYAN PALMER:** Yeah, it was a grind, I thought. For a little while it was a rough start, first three holes, bogeyed 2 and 3, three of the hardest holes I think on the golf course today for sure where the pins were set and the way the greens were bouncing. They were some of the firmest greens I played. (Inaudible) the U.S. Open on this course or the North course, we weren't sure. Just hung in, obviously kept driving the ball well and played the par 5s, that was the one thing James and I talked about before the round is take care of the par 5s today, we can get a good round, I think. It was nice obviously a chip-in on 9, but a great 7-iron on 17 to six feet and of course a long putt on 18. Steady day, very calm, stayed within ourselves and fought a good round.

**Q. Was patience maybe the key to the round?**

**RYAN PALMER:** Today it was for sure because we just kept trying to hit it in the middle of

greens and we had to get up and down a few times. Didn't hit it as crisp, I think, but overall just stayed within myself and knew I was going to be around the lead if I just made some pars coming in. Fortunately we got some good holes when we finished on 17 and 18, so good spot going into the weekend.

**Q. Is momentum important for your game or do you just shut the book on today and start over again tomorrow?**

**RYAN PALMER:** Momentum's huge, but I think today, my goal today was come out and try to get the round of the day, which tomorrow I feel like Neal Smith and I talked about this morning, we're even par as far as I know, we're going to go out and try to birdie the first hole. Tomorrow the goal will be the same, try to go out and shoot the low round of the day. If I can do that each day, obviously you know where we'll end up. That kind of keeps me in the present and not really too worried about where I'm at as far as the leaderboard. That's what we stuck with so far.

**Q. Did accomplishing your goal, keeping your card through those two events, did that kind of free you up moving forward here?**

**RYAN PALMER:** Yeah, it was something, the upper shoulder's, knowing we're full exempt the rest of the year, (inaudible) our medical last week, and plus I played well last week, just I kind of faltered there in the middle of the back nine on Sunday. But I came here with a lot of confidence from there having that weight lifted knowing I'm fully exempt and it kind of frees you up a little bit more. But I've still got work to do to get back in the winner's circle and retain my card for next year, but right now the goal is to shoot the low round tomorrow.

**Q. When you say shoot the low round, does that mean you're more aggressive?**

**RYAN PALMER:** No, it's just play tomorrow as the golf course brings. I mean, tomorrow could be a good round of 4 under, it could be a round of 6 under, I don't know, but if I keep around the low round of the day I'll still be in position to win. The idea is just kind of beating everybody that day. I may need a 63, I don't know. We'll know tomorrow when we get here. The greens will be a little tougher tomorrow probably, I think, a little tougher pin placements on Saturday. But again, I'll have to shoot a low round to stay in the lead and keep within striking distance.

**Q. Is there any relief after going through so much and seeing success?**

**RYAN PALMER:** It's exciting. I don't know if it's relief. I'm at a lot of ease and a lot of peace within myself, I think. It's hard not being home because I love watching my son play hockey and my little girl, she's eight. But I know Jen's feeling great and she's at home taking care of them, which kind of eases a little stress when I'm out here on the road. I'm enjoying playing the game a lot right now, I really am. My life is great. James and I are connecting probably better than we have in a while, I think, but we're definitely -- our team's doing well, that's for sure.

