

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
April 1, 2018



BRIAN HARMAN

JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome our defending champion, Brian Harman, into the interview room. He's making his seventh start at the Wells Fargo Championship. I know we were in Wilmington last year so it's a little bit different title defense for you, but just get your thoughts coming into the week.

BRIAN HARMAN: I'm excited. I thought the course here played great for the PGA Championship. It's in great shape. Played nine holes today, I play a pro-am tomorrow. But they do a great job around here and it's going to be a great tournament.

JOHN BUSH: Seven straight years for you inside the Top-100 in the FedExCup standings. Last year you finally reached the TOUR Championship thanks in large part to that win in Wilmington. Just get some comments on your season up to this point and how things are progressing.

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, I've had a nice year, been really consistent, a bunch of top-10s. But when you come back as the defending champ and you don't have any other wins, it's been a year since I've won a tournament, so that's high on my list and I'm trying to get back in the winner's circle.

Q. How would you rate last year? Obviously getting the win was big for you, but was it your best year on Tour by your definition or were there other things involved?

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, I think consistency wise it was my best year on Tour. I obviously never made the TOUR Championship. I was really close in 2014, but yeah, just played really well all the year and it kind of rolled into this year a little bit and have been playing pretty well.

Q. How motivated are you, if at all, by the Ryder Cup?

BRIAN HARMAN: I mean, I would be lying if I said I wasn't thinking about it a lot. The team stuff has always really kind of really excited me. I love match play. They're just so unique, it's just a different kind of golf. I feel like I've done pretty well in match play and, yeah, it's definitely on my radar. It's something I've really circled this year and I'm trying my best to qualify for the team.

Q. What are the challenges on this course as opposed to last year's, and does this course fit your game as well as last year's did?

BRIAN HARMAN: You know, they're not terribly dissimilar. They both require you to drive

it pretty well. Big, undulated greens. This course has kind of lent itself to the longer hitter, but creativity and good putting take you a long way here. I don't think it's any -- it's not a coincidence that Patrick Reed played very well here and very well at Augusta. He's very talented around the greens with his putter and has really good touch, and you have to be really good here as well as Augusta.

Q. Have you made any equipment changes over the last year, or certainly since you won in Wilmington?

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, I changed irons at the beginning of last year and then I changed my ball the week before Wilmington last year, and I've switched everything at the beginning of this calendar year. So I was playing -- I was 14 clubs with TaylorMade and I'm I think 13 clubs with Titleist now, Titleist ball.

Q. Can you compare this golf course for the way it played for the PGA versus the years it hosted the Wells Fargo, was it that dramatically different?

BRIAN HARMAN: It can be, it just depends on how firm everything gets. The overseeded rough is much easier to play in than strictly bermuda rough, which is what we had PGA. Around the greens will be slightly easier to chip on, and the greens won't be quite as fast as they were for the PGA. They were brand new, I think they only had six months or something on them with the Champions bermuda. But this will be the first Wells Fargo we've played on these greens with Bermuda instead of the traditional greens that have been here forever. It will be interesting to see how the tournament plays out. It was extremely difficult for the PGA. It was really tough to chip around the greens because it was so tight, but with that overseed, you had a little bit more grass, a little bit more cushion to play from.

Q. This is strictly a hypothetical question, but if somebody told you you could get a lot longer off the tee but you would have to trade a lot of accuracy that you've had off the tee, is that a deal you would make?

BRIAN HARMAN: I don't think so. I like the way I do it. Obviously I would love to hit it further at times, but I feel like I hit it plenty far when I need to. So no, I'm not very good at playing it out of the rough, so I'll just stay in the fairways for now.

Q. What's it like for you to come back to this tournament, you had the emotional high obviously last year, you come back as defending champion and it's a different course. What's it like for you this week?

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, it's certainly odd not defending at the course that you won, but that's just the -- that's the way it is. I've done okay here, I've had a top-10 and I finished 13th or so in the PGA. So I like this golf course a lot, it suits me and it's always been one of my favorite tournaments, so I'm thrilled to be back.

Q. Having won multiple times on Tour, was it any different last year because of the

circumstances, because you had Dustin, who hadn't lost to anybody in what seemed like months?

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, I think every win will probably be a little bit different. That one was extremely gratifying just because it had been -- I felt like it had been so long and I had been playing really well and knocking on the door. That's kind of how it seems to happen. But to win in that fashion. I mean, not a lot of people get to do that, make a long putt on the last hole to win a tournament, that's something that you think about all the time.

Q. You talked earlier in the year about how you feel like you averaged 290 and you're still hitting it -- you're hitting it actually farther than it now, but there's so many guys hitting it much farther. Are you becoming a bit of an anomaly, are there fewer guys able to do what you do?

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, I see less and less guys. It seems like -- it just seems like the average golfer now is just a bigger, better athlete than they were seven to 10 years ago. There's not a lot of guys that are under six feet tall. I saw something the other day where the average height of the PGA TOUR had gone up like four inches or something like that. Guys are bigger. Guys that would have been piddling around in the minor league baseball are out here hitting 320 yards now. The pool of golfers has gotten deeper, I think.

Q. Could you give us kind of a thought process going into the Green Mile to finish a golf tournament here at the Wells Fargo?

BRIAN HARMAN: It's especially tough if you start on the back nine because if you start on the back nine, you've got a stretch there where you've got 16, 17, 18, 1, 2, 3, and 4, so that's seven holes without a par 5 where the shortest par 4 is, gosh, I don't know, 490 yards. So it's extremely tough if you start that way. It's an interesting set of holes if you start on that back nine.

Q. Do you get the feeling coming here like a lot of people do that this is like a fifth major, particularly with the PGA having been here last year?

BRIAN HARMAN: It's certainly a golf course fit for a major and the field this year would suggest the same, so it's going to be a big tournament this year. I think everyone's really looking forward to it.

JOHN BUSH: Brian, we appreciate your time. Best of luck this week.

BRIAN HARMAN: Thank you so much.