

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**August 16, 2018**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER (-11)**



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**JACK RYAN:** We're joined by Brandt Snedeker --

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Say it, please say it.

**JACK RYAN:** -- after an opening 59 --

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Thank you.

**JACK RYAN:** -- in the first round of the Wyndham Championship, the 10th sub-60 score in PGA TOUR history and the first since Adam Hadwin's last season at the CareerBuilder Challenge.

Brandt, if we can just get some opening comments on the round and what keyed you to the 59.

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yeah, you know, crazy day. You start off with a bogey and a snap-hook 3-wood off the 10th tee. Hit a few good shots the next few holes and kind of got some momentum going. Made some long putts on the front nine and then got hot on my back nine, the front nine here.

I got lucky on No. 6 and hit a great shot that went in the hole, obviously kind of destroyed that cup. So it's actually a good thing looking back on it, made me slow down for a minute, understand what was going on.

And that putt on the last hole, to have that, to know what you're trying to do and step up there and have a 20-footer and know what it means, I was very aware of what was going on. When I knocked that putt in, it was really special to know that I'm part of a small club on Tour, not many people have done this and a really cool feeling right now.

**JACK RYAN:** And for historical purposes if you could, starting with the only bad shot you hit all day, could you give us the club and yardage you hit for each shot starting on No. 10?

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yeah. 10, snap-hooked a 3-wood in the trees. I kind of hit a low shot up there short right of the green from about 180 yards. Hit a pitch shot to about seven feet behind the hole and missed the putt.

First birdie of the day was on 13. I hit driver off the tee, had a perfect 118-yard shot, hit a poor wedge shot for me about 25 feet beyond the hole. I made a long putt there to kind of get things going the right direction.

Next hole, I hit driver off the tee, had 188 yards in with a 7-iron, hit a great shot to about 20 feet short of the hole, made a great putt.

The next hole, par 5, hit 5-wood kind of short, just short of the green, absolutely perfect spot from about 230. Almost made the putt for eagle, lipped it out over the right edge, tapped in for birdie there.

16, I had 163, I hit a cut 8-iron to about 10 feet right behind the hole, really easy, great putt, straight down the hill, made that one.

Made a great par save on 18. Hit driver off the tee and hit it in the right first cut and hit a 4-iron in the left bunker. Really, really tough up-and-down. Hit a great bunker shot to about six feet and made that putt. When I made that one, I kept the momentum going, it was a big hole.

No. 1, I hit a 3-wood off the tee and 8-iron from about 158 yards to about two feet, knocked that one in.

3-wood on 2 with 127 yards in, hit a gap wedge to about a foot.

8-iron on 3, 174 yards, hit it to two feet, so you can see why I shot 59. I had a lot of tap-ins.

Par 5, No. 5 was my next birdie. Missed the fairway on the right, hit a good 6-iron just short of the green, chipped it up to two feet, made birdie.

No. 7, I had 184 in from the middle of the fairway, hit a cut 7-iron that went in. Those are nice. Destroyed the cup a little bit, so that's the first time I've seen that on Tour or had to deal with that before. Ended up being a good thing, kind of slowed me down.

Next hole was 215 yards, hit a 5-iron to 2 feet.

My last hole, my last birdie of the day, I hit 3-wood off the tee, had 161, 155 front, hit a 9-iron front edge 20 feet away right in the middle.

Really cool feeling to stand on 8 tee and told myself if I hit two fairways, I'm going to shoot 59. Those are both birdie holes and felt like I could get it done the way I was playing, so to stand up there and do that the last two holes. Missed a short one on 8 from about four feet, could have been even more special, but happy with the way everything turned out. Pretty cool deal to make a putt on the last hole to do it.

**JACK RYAN:** I'll bet. We'll take some questions.

**Q. Of course, after a round like this, how do you even think about tomorrow going forward from here?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yeah, you know, I'm going to really enjoy this moment, enjoy today. Luckily, I tee off in the afternoon tomorrow. I'm not -- I'm very aware that there's a lot of golf left. This means absolutely nothing in the grand scheme of this golf tournament. You know, 18 to 24 under par seems to win here every year, so I'm going to have to make a lot more birdies if I'm going to be around on Sunday. That being said, I'm off to a great start, build on the day and hopefully kind of do what some guys have been able to do here and that's run away, you know. I've got a great lead right now. Hopefully, I can keep on it and try to build on it the next few days.

**Q. Brandt, how do you not think about shooting in the 50s?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** I did, I thought about it. I don't know how you wouldn't. I had a chance -- I know they said my low score out here is 61. I had a chance at 59, I was playing in China at Mission Hills. I can't remember what tournament it was. I thought it was a Tour event, but I guess it wasn't. I had a putt on the last hole for 59 and I kept trying to push it from my mind, push it from my mind and it just kind of got in the way.

I said, you've got to embrace it, you've got to want to do it. I was standing on 8 tee saying you're not going to have a better opportunity than this. You've got two short holes left, birdie opportunities, the greens are perfect, they're soft. If you can't do it now, you're not going to be able to do it, to get it done, figure out a way to get it done. Luckily, I was able to do it.

**Q. So when you destroyed the cup at 6, first of all, have you ever seen them move, physically see them move the hole?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** I've never -- I was asking Fabel if he's ever done it. The PGA TOUR rules official, he played out here quite a few years and he said he's seen it once since he's been out here playing and being an official. I know we saw it last week at the PGA, it happened at the PGA last week. It's just a very rare occurrence. I've never seen it before. Just kind of luckily for me, it worked out positive, you know, went down in the cup and didn't spit it out.

**Q. So you said that gave you time to think?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yeah.

**Q. Is that when you started zeroing in on --**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** I'm 9 under par with three to go, I've got two birdie holes left I know of, that's 8 and 9. It's not crazy to shoot 59. Like that's why we're here, let's keep going, don't be complacent now because you're 9 under par, take advantage of this opportunity. Then when the 5-iron got close on 7, I was like, okay, you've got to do it, it's not going to get any easier than this.

**Q. It liked like it took some time for you to figure out that it had dropped on 6?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yes. I thought it was about five feet away. The crowd didn't -- the crowd kind of went a little crazy but nothing like I holed it, just got excited for a minute. I thought it kind of hit short and rolled by the hole and it was four, five feet away.

So I had my putter walking up, trying to get ready to make a birdie putt. I get up there and I only see one ball and everybody starts smiling at me. I'm like, "Well, you could have been more excited from the fairway, this doesn't happen all the time. I know you all think I'm good, I'm not that good. I don't hole out from the fairway from 180 yards very often."

It was really pretty funny. We all started laughing. Nobody in the group knew that I holed it out, so kind of a weird thing, you know?

**Q. At the 8th, after you missed that putt at 8, it could have easily been a little deflating. How did you kind of put that in perspective?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** I tried to talk myself into -- it was not the easiest putt in the world because a downhill right-to-lefter and I knew if I was aggressive with that putt I could run it 6 feet by really easily. So try to tell myself, listen, it's not the end of the world, you still have a birdie hole left. If I can birdie 8, now I started thinking, I kind of had in my mind if I make this putt, I've got one more birdie to shoot 58 and tie Jim Furyk for 58.

So when I missed the putt, I got a little disappointed right away, but I said, you know what, if I hit the fairway on 9, I'm going to have a birdie opportunity, I'm going to figure out a way to get it done.

Really good today about kind of letting myself think about what was going to happen, but then used it as motivation to get back in the shot. It's great, I want to shoot 59, but if you're going to do that, you better put this ball in the fairway first and how are you going to go about doing that. You know, it kind of helped me get back in the moment and get back into what I needed to get done.

**Q. You said you were thinking of 59 mentally, but did you have any conversations with your caddie?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yeah.

**Q. You did?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yeah. I mean, I was walking off 9 with Travis and Billy and I was talking with Billy. Billy said I should have worn a purple shirt today. I said why -- that means we both would have shot 59 because I'm getting ready to do it right now. He's looking at me. I said, I think I'm going to do it, and then when I made the putt on the last hole, that's why I got so excited. It's very rare out here when you have something you're trying to do

and you step up with this pressure and all that stuff on you and you do it. You hit the shots you're supposed to hit and you make the putts you're supposed to do. If you don't get excited for that, then you need to find another job. This is what we play for and work for and do all that stuff for.

**Q. How crazy is the game of golf? In here yesterday, you're talking about it's been a struggle this year, but then you said, "I think I found something."**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** If you would have seen my play yesterday, I think I shot a couple under par, but it was not anything like it was today. Nobody could see this coming, trust me. As much as I tried to positive self-talk myself into playing good, I didn't see 59 coming today, to be honest with you. But I kind of found something late yesterday on the golf course that kind of built on what I was working on earlier in the week. And on the range last night I hit about five balls and I said, okay, that feels right, I think I can play aggressively from there. Luckily it, kind of clicked all day today and hopefully it will keep clicking for the next three days.

**Q. What did you say you found yesterday?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Just a little swing tip trying to find something to get everything synched up together. I feel like everything's been working kind of independently of each other. My lower body and upper body haven't been working -- kind of working as a team in the golf swing and kind of leaving everything behind. So just try to get everything synched up so I can hit the ball where I'm looking and give myself an opportunity on this golf course because if you hit the fairways here, my wedge game's been really good all year, I'm going to have a lot of birdie opportunities.

**Q. And you looked like you knew that putt was in a couple of feet out on the 9th. Can you talk us through the break, et cetera?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Yeah, it was about a two-ball, one-cup-out putt, uphill right-to-left into the grain, so I knew I could be aggressive. Kept telling myself I don't care if I three-putt it, but you're not going to leave this thing short. You don't know when this is going to happen again.

So it came off and about halfway there it looked like it was on a really good line. About six feet to go I was like, there's no way this thing's missing, and I got really excited obviously. And then when it went in, you know, it's what you play for. I got so pumped up, I felt like I won a golf tournament. So I have to get my mind around I haven't really done anything yet, I have to get back into real life and there's a lot of golf left. But still, really cool memory, especially in a place like this where I won my first event. Wyndham's been my longest-term sponsor since I've been out here on the Tour, really cool to do at this place.

**Q. For those of us who haven't shot a 59 in our lives, is it momentum, is it adrenaline?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** It's all of the above.

**Q. Describe it, being hot.**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** You're not really too worried about too much going on. You hit a lot of quality golf shots, but nothing -- you feel like you're doing what you're supposed to do, putting the ball in the right spots, giving yourself some good looks at birdies, making a few putts here and there, don't make any dumb mistakes and try to get out of your own way and don't let your mind kind of get going crazy.

I didn't drive it particularly great with my driver today, I think I missed three fairways with my driver, but luckily around here you're only hitting about five or six. So got over that and hit some great iron shots, some great wedges and made a few long putts early in the round to kind of get this thing to be a possibility.

**Q. Since you won here, you've come back here every year. Has it been disappointing, frustrating, because you think it's automatic, but it really isn't?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** No, I've had some great finishes here, some chances to win here several times, that's why I love coming back. I think I finished 3rd here a couple times, 5th a couple times maybe, had some good opportunities to win here, and so it's all you can do is give yourself opportunities. It's tough to win on Tour. It's getting tougher every year it seems like. The only way you're able to do it is give yourself opportunities late on Sunday. I've done that quite a few times here and for whatever reason it hasn't worked out besides my rookie year. Hopefully, this week we can do it again and figure out a way to get it done.

**Q. You said on 18 you got some momentum after the bunker shot. What did that do for you the rest of the round on that back 9?**

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** It really did. I hit a great putt, that was probably the best putt I hit all day. It was tough, like the one I had on 8, the 17th hole, a right-to-left downhill putt. Hit a great bunker shot. Probably not many guys are going to get up and down out of that bunker today, it's just a death place to be. Hit a great bunker shot, and to make that putt to keep the momentum going, I think I turned at 4 or 5, I can't remember. To keep that momentum going, not let one slip away there was huge because anytime you -- obviously started with a bogey, but once I got going, I didn't want to make another one because it just kills momentum.

**JACK RYAN:** Well, thank you for the time, Brandt. Congratulations on the round. Best of luck the rest of the week.

**BRANDT SNEDEKER:** Appreciate it.