

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
August 19, 2018

BRANDT SNEDEKER (-21)



JACK RYAN: For the fourth and final time, we are joined by Brandt Snedeker in the media center --

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Never thought I would be so excited.

JACK RYAN: -- champion of the 2018 Wyndham Championship. Brandt, it's evident listening to you talk that as a Wyndham guy and getting your first win here at this tournament that this means so much to you.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: It does. It's been a really emotional and stressful week, to say the least, to start the way I did at a tournament that means so much to me. To have your first Tour win, which I don't care, you ask anybody out here on Tour, it's always special to him. To be able to come back here year after year and get close several times, not be able to do it. To be a Wyndham guy now for, this is my 12th, 13th year with them, wanting so desperately to win this tournament, it was just a lot of emotion this week.

And to be able to cap it off the way I did today, to play pretty much a flawless round of golf except for the three-putt on 13, so proud of myself and so proud of the way I was able to hang in there. Just means the world to me that I was able to do it here in Greensboro with Wyndham Worldwide being the sponsor, it just means the world to me.

JACK RYAN: Coming into the week, obviously one of the main storylines is the guys on the bubble of the FedExCup Playoffs. You weren't on the bubble, you were 80, but this was an opportunity for you to make a big jump, which you did. You're number 30 as we approach the Northern Trust next week.

How important is it to make a jump like that the week before?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, it's huge. Your position going into the Playoffs dictates a lot of your chances of winning the FedExCup Playoffs, dictates how you can think and play, your realistic chances of winning or not winning. As somebody who's been fortunate enough to win before, I realize how important it is to be in a good position going into the Playoffs and also to play well when you're there.

To be perfectly frank, I didn't have any chance at all of winning the FedExCup Playoffs when I showed up here this week and there's just no way, as far back as I was, I didn't see it happening. After this week I feel like I have a chance, I feel like I kind of put myself in position where three good weeks going to East Lake, you never know what's going to happen. I'm a guy who always gets hot. When I get hot playing golf it's a lot of fun because

I can kind of stay there for a little while and then I kind of tail off. So I'm getting hot at the right time, can't wait for the next three weeks and trying to work my way into Atlanta and have a chance to win the FedExCup Playoffs.

Q. Brandt, you mentioned 13 as being the one wobble, but there for a while your irons weren't as sharp. What was going on right in there, were you starting to get a little nervous?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: No, I don't think my irons weren't that sharp. I think I was hitting it exactly where I was supposed to. I didn't drive the ball -- when I hit the fairway, I put it right where I was supposed to, kind of 20, 30 feet away. If I had been making some putts today, it would have been a nonissue. I had some good opportunities early I didn't make. I think I missed one green today. You do that around here, it's pretty hard to shoot a bad round, so I'm really proud of the way I hit it.

Q. Brandt, on 18, did you know you had a two-stroke lead?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Did not, no.

Q. Did you hear the thunder at all when you were putting?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah. I was looking for the tournament director or Mark Russell saying, "Do not blow this horn, I don't care what we have to do." To be perfectly frank with you, I don't think he was going to blow it no matter where it was, either.

I didn't know until the fairway. I heard a guy on the tee say Pan made double. I knew better than to believe that because I didn't want to let myself think that I had a two-shot lead. When we got down the fairway I asked one of the spotters, "Did he make double," and he said, "Yeah."

So it really changed the way I hit that second shot and changed my thought process. So just very fortunate to have that cushion there. Otherwise, it would have been a different shot.

Q. I think it was a year ago this week that you sent out a Tweet saying that you were going to take the rest of the season off because of the rib injury. Can you kind of walk us through this last year and maybe the ups and downs of getting to this point where you're back in the winner's circle?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: It's been tough. To be injured, to be away from the game for five and a half months, to not know what the recovery was going to look like, to not know if you're going to be 100 percent again and still dealing with it to this day. Still not 100 percent, but I'm way better than I was. I guess it's the facts of life as you get older out here, you're going to have to deal with certain nagging injuries all the time.

It's always in the back of my mind. If I wake up funny one day, is it going to start hurting me

again or not. It's been a tough year, year and a half, two years for me, to be honest with you. When you don't have your health out here and you're trying to fight through it, it's really tough because you know what you're capable of and your body's not letting you do what you think you should be able to do. Fortunately enough, I felt good enough to be able to practice and put the time in and it came through today. Today's when you find out, okay, am I going to hold up, is the stuff I'm working on working, is it Tour tested in a sense, and it was great to hit some quality shots down the stretch.

Q. Yesterday when you were sitting here, you put the number at 22.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah.

Q. You got to 21.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah.

Q. I mean, so that --

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I thought if I could -- you know, the one thing I knew, I knew C.T. got in front of me for a minute. I knew he was at 20 at one point. I kept telling myself I have more holes, I have more opportunities, I can get 22. I still thought that was the number.

I think I turned at 19 and when I did that, okay, there's three birdies on the back nine, there's a par 5 I should be able to get, there's two wedge opportunities, just don't make any mistakes. Besides 13, I didn't. Did everything I possibly could. Really, did CT put a lot of pressure on me. I was feeling it for four, five holes. We were tied, I was 1 back, and the shot of the tournament was the pitch shot on 15. I had a horrible lie and could have gone anywhere, and it just came out perfect and really proud of the way I was able to calm my nerves enough to hit that shot. That shot's a -- that's a 1 out of 10 up-and-down kind of thing, the lie was horrific. To be able to pull that shot off and get up and down when I had to is something I'll pull on for a long time.

Q. A week ago I didn't think there were many people mentioning your name as a possible captain's pick for the Ryder Cup, but I think that's probably going to change now. Now you have the trophy in front of you, is it something you're thinking about, something you really want, just your thoughts in general on the Ryder Cup?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: To be honest, I talked to Jim earlier this week. I was not even, rightfully so, I wasn't even on the radar. Coming in here this week to win helps obviously. And yes, of course I want to be on the team. If you've been on one Ryder Cup team, it's hard to miss another one.

But I have to play some great golf the next three weeks, plain and simple. I'm not going to be able to get on the team by winning one week out here. You've got to show sustained good play.

There's a bunch of great guys who are playing unbelievable right now outside the top 8 who deserve a chance before I do right now. But I'll go play my tail off the next three weeks and make it really, really difficult for him to make the right choice. One thing I do have in my favor is I've played on teams before. I know kind of what the deal is and I would love to play on away soil. I've never done that before, I think it would be a lot of fun.

Q. Anything interesting he said to you the last time you talked?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: All kinds of stuff.

Q. Maybe an example or two?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Not that kind of interesting stuff.

Q. Continuing on with the Ryder Cup question, do you accept the premise that Tiger and Phil and maybe even Kiz are locks?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I don't think anybody's a lock right now.

I shouldn't say that. I think Tiger's a lock and I would be hard pressed to leave Phil off that team. It means so much to him. He's such a great teammate, he's so great in the locker room. It would be hard to leave those two guys off in my opinion.

After that, I have no idea. I don't think anybody does. If they tell you they do, they don't.

The great thing about these last four weeks is they tell a lot, can you step up and play good when you need to, can you show guys that you're wanting -- everybody wants to, that you can handle the pressure and do it. I've been not picked before and I've been picked before, so I know what those guys are going through, I know how tough it is. It's a good kind of starting point for saying, hey, this is pressure that you have to deal with times 10 come the Ryder Cup.

But there's a lot of great guys that are worthy of doing it. I think it comes down the stretch right now of who's playing well at the right time.

Q. If you had to make a sales pitch to Jim, how would you finish this sentence, "I think I should be on the team because..."

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I think Jim knows enough about me to finish that one out himself. I think at the end of the day, it won't matter. This weeks help. I've got to play good the next three weeks, period, end of story. Otherwise, I've got no leg to stand on. I've had two years to play my tail off to get on that team and I did not. I've got nobody to blame but myself. I need to play good these next couple weeks to show him that I want to be on the team and I can handle it.

Q. Was the family going to come anyway or was that --

BRANDT SNEDEKER: No.

Q. -- after you shot the 59?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: No, it was after, yeah.

Q. What does it mean to you --

BRANDT SNEDEKER: This is the first time I think my kids are both old enough to remember this one. I've won before when they were there, but they were both babies. To have my first, to have it be here at Wyndham is special, to have my kids being here when they can understand what it means what daddy does for a living and be able to do it on 18. They've been telling me for two years they want to see a trophy, they want to hold a trophy and I've been failing them for two years. So it means the world to me that I have not failed them finally.

It's a great teaching lesson for them. They've seen how hard I've worked. They've seen the amount of time I've spent away from them trying to get to this point, so it's good for them to see, hey, it works, pays off. If you keep your head on straight and do stuff the right way and keep working your tail off, you do get rewarded. So I think more than anything else, I'm more proud of that fact.

Q. So with all of that pressure added to it, the Wyndham pressure added to it, what did the 59 do to you? Did you feel at that moment, okay, now I have to win? Did that put even more pressure on you this week?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, it's the most stressful week I've ever had in professional golf, even more than the Ryder Cup, even more than anything else, just because of everything that's encompassed into this week between shooting 59 on Thursday so your expectations go through the roof.

Knowing my kids, knowing they're coming on the weekend, knowing all this stuff's going on, which I want my kids to be here. They're a great release for me. I don't think I would have won today if they weren't here. Being able to go to dinner with them last night and completely forget about what's going on. Having my dad and my brother here today, they came up for the day. Having those moments as a family that you don't get very often out here when you're successful is so special.

It was a long, tough week, 28 holes today. If you had told me today that I played 8 under par, I think, or 7 under par today with only a couple bogeys, that's for me, an old guy now, 37 years old, that's good golf in a lot of heat, so I'm really proud of that.

Q. Knowing that you had to play the 29 today, how did you sleep last night?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I slept like a log. I knew I needed it. I went to bed at 9:00. My kids wore me out last night. We went to dinner and had some fun. My wife's a saint. She takes the kids and puts them down, let me kind of go to sleep. I slept 9:00 to 5:00. I guess I got up at 5:00.

And shows you the kind of people the Wyndham people are. Steve Holmes, the chairman, ex-CEO or just recently retired, he's the one that picked me up this morning at 6:15 to drive me to the golf course.

I called transportation last night because obviously my family needed the car to be able to get to the golf course today. Mark Brazil's like, yeah, I'll get you, don't worry about it, and Steve Holmes showed up this morning at 6:15 to take me to the golf course this morning. Shows you what kind of people they are.

Q. Did you have to do a double take?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, of course. I'm like, "Where are you going? What are you doing here?" I'm your driver. I'm like, "I guess retirement's treating you well." So yeah, makes it even more special when people like that are involved.

Q. (No microphone.)

BRANDT SNEDEKER: He did, yeah. He did. He's an all-encompassing chairman, I guess. He is great.

JACK RYAN: Congratulations, Brandt, and best of luck in the FedExCup Playoffs.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Thanks so much, appreciate it.