

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**February 23, 2019**

**PATRICK REED (-9)**



---

**Q. 71-68-64, getting better all the time.**

**PATRICK REED:** I think the big change is just getting more comfortable. You know, even if you know the numbers, it's hard to trust hitting a gap wedge 170 yards, a pitching wedge 180 yards. So I think my coach and I have done a lot of good work last week and I feel like the swing's where it needs to be and now I'm able to match the swing up with the distance it's actually going.

**Q. Three birdies to finish. Still a little way back. Is this a golf course you would change your strategy on looking at the leaderboard?**

**PATRICK REED:** Honestly, maybe. It depends, it depends where the pin placements are and depends on how close I am. I'm naturally an aggressive player as it is and I feel like I played pretty aggressively so far on this golf course. I just need to keep on kind of doing what I did today, hitting the ball solid and give myself a lot of chances.

**Q. How hard is it to stay patient? You've been really solid so far this year, but the best is a tie 13th. This is more like the Patrick Reed we know and love. How hard is it to stay patient through those times?**

**PATRICK REED:** It's hard, you know, because I feel like I've done a lot of things better than last year. I mean, I feel like the swing's in better shape, I feel like I'm in better shape. I feel like I'm hitting putts right where I'm looking. It's just kind of one of those things that hasn't quite panned out, but at the same time last year I was kind of in the same kind of situation. Last year I was doing a lot of testing of stuff. So I feel really good this time of year. Hopefully can go off and play a good round tomorrow and you never know.

**Q. Congratulations, you took 7 shots off the course today, the lowest you've ever done here and what looks like the lowest anybody will today.**

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, it was definitely a solid day. It was one of those days I needed to go out and post a number and try to close that gap a little bit. Even if it's not to close the gap to win a golf tournament, it's at least get up there as high as I can. Never know what can happen tomorrow.

**Q. Doesn't hurt you had two eagles on the card today?**

**PATRICK REED:** No, it doesn't. This is one of those golf courses that if the wind stays down a little bit, with how far the ball travels, you can get yourself a couple eagle looks here

and there. It's always nice to have one be a chip-in, but felt like it was really (inaudible).

**Q. You're the youngest person ever to hold the WGC trophy. How much are you keeping an eye on the trophy and what do you think DJ is in reach for tomorrow?**

**PATRICK REED:** It all depends. I think when I signed my scorecard he was on 13 or 14, so he still has a reachable par 5 and you never know. I birdied 16, 17, 18, so just all depends. It could have been a really special day. I feel like I left a couple shots out there early on in the round. You know, if those would have gone my way, that gap would have been a little closer and probably a little easier. It's going to take at least a 7 to 10 under par round tomorrow.

**Q. Lastly, you're known and loved for showing your emotions and getting quite fiery. You looked more composed today. Are you saving that for the back nine tomorrow?**

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, you know, it's just kind of one of those things, I feel like with being at altitude and how high we are, try to exert as little energy as possible because it's a long four days. The biggest thing is just trying to stay calm and not get too up or too down because come that back stretch, you need as much energy as you can get.

**Q. What was the secret today? What was in the sauce today to get a 64 out of that?**

**PATRICK REED:** I think the biggest thing was I just hit the ball a little better than I did earlier this week. I felt like I was hitting the ball well early on this week, it was just trying to get comfortable with how far the ball's going, and on top of that, just leave yourself in the right spots.

The first two days I felt like I hit some quality shots, but it seemed like when I got close, I was always above the hole, so it was hard how fast the greens are, you just have to tap in and play break. Today I was able to leave those below the hole and some aggressive putts towards the hole. Just kind of getting a little more comfortable with how far the ball's going and being able to dial in the numbers.

**Q. Six birdies, two eagles, three bogeys. Is that fun? The bogeys are there, but it's fun to play that, right?**

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, it was a lot of fun. No, of course the three-putt on 4, I think I do that every year on that back right pin. I always hit it to the middle of the green and I always hammer it way by. That seemed to stay the same. Just two loose golf shots, one on 13 and one on 14. When you hit a poor golf shot around here, it can put you in a really bad spot. Unfortunately, I got myself in two bad spots there, but I made up for it by hitting a lot of quality good golf shots. To go around this place and feel like I shot 7 under par and left a lot out there is a positive feeling going into tomorrow and the rest of the year.

**Q. I know that going into tomorrow you're going to probably do something similar,**

right?

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, tomorrow I probably need at a minimum at least 7 on the round. Probably need to get to 10 under tomorrow depending on what happens with DJ.

**Q. Just some thoughts on your round today, 64. Must have been feeling like this round was coming for a while?**

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, you know, I felt like we were definitely in position to go out and spark something, get something going. Earlier this week I felt like the first two days I was hitting the ball really well, just wasn't really getting much out of the rounds. To hit a perfect tee shot on 1 and to have basically a straightforward birdie there and then to be able to chip in on 2 just kind of got the thing rolling.

You know, I mean, I missed a shorty on 3 and then bogeyed 4 and I was off to the races after that. Around this golf course if you're hitting the ball well and you dial in, you get comfortable with how far the ball's going, you can attack it. The hardest thing here is because the ball goes so far, you're always leaving yourself usually above the hole, and with how fast the greens are, you have to play so defensive. I was able to leave them on the right side of the hole today and play aggressive.

**Q. Early in your round if you look at what DJ was doing, it seemed like he was running away with it, and then at some point did you see what happened on 10 and everyone seemed to (inaudible)?**

**PATRICK REED:** Honestly, I didn't. I knew that I had to go out there, I was hoping to be able to get to 8, 8 under to start tomorrow. Just tried to hope and get myself in position to go out and shoot something spectacular tomorrow to win a golf tournament.

To get to 9 and feel like I left shots out there makes me feel really good about tomorrow. Hopefully I can go out and continue hitting some solid golf shots and just give myself opportunities, because last I saw he was at 14 and when I finished he was at 14 and he still had a par 5 left. And that par 5, hit driver anywhere in between the trees, he has 8-iron in his hands. I hit a soft 7, he hits it farther than I do. It's kind of one of those things like the last four holes are gettable today and you never know what can happen.

**Q. Have you seen in three days (inaudible) people you were playing with -- Rickie's shank doesn't count by the way -- (inaudible)?**

**PATRICK REED:** I did not actually see that yesterday. I didn't see the drop, either. It's kind of one of those things.

**Q. But to know that even if you're whatever, 4, 5 behind and trouble is lurking when you least expect it, does that affect the way you sometimes (inaudible)?**

**PATRICK REED:** It just all depends. We have to see kind of where the pin placements are. You know it's going to be back left on 17. I would think they would put it who knows where 16. Normally they have one in the bowl on 16, so you never know, you could spit one in there. Just because it will all depend. I feel like my game plan's already really aggressive, so it's kind of hard to get more aggressive. I mean, really, it's going to depend on I need to go out and hit the ball like I did today. I need to leave myself that many opportunities. I could go out today and I missed a short one on 3, three-putted 4, missed a short one on 5, missed a short one on 7.

**Q. You made some today, too, right?**

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, I made some. But if I continue hitting the ball like I did today, I would think I would be able to make as many, but I also had more opportunities because it's going to take a really special day tomorrow. 7 under I don't think -- I don't think 7 under's going to get it done tomorrow. DJ will have to shoot 2 under par if he stays at 14 just to tie me. I'm thinking it's going to at least take me 10 to maybe even a 59 depending on how he finishes the day.