

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
February 24, 2019



MARTIN TRAINER (-15)

DOUG MILNE: We would like to welcome the winner of the 2019 Puerto Rico Open, Martin Trainer. Martin, congratulations on your first career PGA TOUR win, your 11th PGA TOUR start. With the win you move all the way up to 39th in the FedExCup standings. Just an incredible week you had. I think I heard you on the way in saying that you guys at one point didn't even realize y'all had a two-shot lead, which probably kept your nerves in check.

With all that said, just a few thoughts on capturing your first career PGA TOUR title.

MARTIN TRAINER: I mean, it's obviously incredible. I never thought that I would be able to win on the PGA TOUR. I managed to do it today and that's just incredible.

Yeah, I don't know what's more pressure, thinking that you're tied for the lead or knowing that you have a two-shot lead, because those are different types of pressure but they're both pressure. So I didn't know how I stood, and I made that birdie on No. 15 and so I just assumed, well, I'm probably, you know, either tied for the lead or up one or something like that.

Then I saw that I was up two after I had hit my iron shot on the 16th hole and that's when it sort of changed. I just wanted to lag every single putt up there, hit the fairways, hit the green in regulation, and obviously I was able to do that.

DOUG MILNE: I know it will probably take a while to sink in, but obviously with the win, all kind of perks. You've got the two-year exemption, you've got invites into events like THE PLAYERS Championship and Kapalua next year for the Sentry Tournament of Champions --

MARTIN TRAINER: Tell me more.

DOUG MILNE: -- and so forth.

MARTIN TRAINER: No, not "and so forth." Tell me everything else. I don't even know what I'm going to be getting into.

DOUG MILNE: You'll not have much down time, we'll leave it at that. The win carries a lot more than the first-place prize. You've got the 300 FedExCup points. Are you the type that likes to get a plan in place well in advance, or does this really throw a wrench into the plan?

MARTIN TRAINER: Well, I never had the luxury of making a plan, I was just trying to play as many events as I could. So now I guess that will be a little different, I'll be able to pick and choose where I want to go and have a little more flexibility with my schedule. It's just

such a great feeling to be able to have that. I'm just trying to let it sink in.

DOUG MILNE: We'll open it up and take a few questions.

Q. So Ryan was telling me earlier this is his first time with you on the PGA TOUR, but you guys had some success on the Web.com Tour as well. Can you just maybe relay a little bit of the story about how you guys got connected for this week and how excited you are maybe to move forward with Ryan on your bag now?

MARTIN TRAINER: Yeah, I mean, Ryan obviously did a great job. He's a good buddy of mine and it's cool he was able to make it out here. Going forward, we'll see if he's available, because he's one-for-one.

Q. Your normal caddie was sick, is that correct, or was sick this week?

MARTIN TRAINER: Yeah, he was sick and he couldn't make it.

Q. First time really being in contention at a PGA TOUR event and you got the job done. I know you said you had nerves coming in, but do you feel you're the type of person to squash those nerves when it matters?

MARTIN TRAINER: I mean, not really, but I was able to make contact with the ball. You know, there comes a certain point where the pressure is like maxed out in your brain and you just do whatever you can to make contact and hit putts forward. At the end I had no idea if my putts were going to go like four feet by or four feet short. You just have no feel, the pressure is just overwhelming you. I just relied on my training and my practice to sort of guide me through those and hit the ball forward.

Q. At the beginning of the week when you first arrived to the golf course, did you think it was one that fit your game, fit your eye?

MARTIN TRAINER: I think so. This golf course, actually I was talking about it with Ryan, my caddie, it reminds me a lot of this golf course I played at in Mexico on the Latinoamerica Tour in Mazatlan. It looks just like it. It's wide open, windy. It really is like a replica of this golf course. So I thought about that I won at that golf course and we were talking about it all week how this is just, you know, a carbon copy of that course and how we have good vibes going into this week. I'm just happy it worked out.

DOUG MILNE: Can you just run us through your background a little bit? I heard you on the phone. What language is that you were speaking.

MARTIN TRAINER: I was speaking French to my mom.

DOUG MILNE: Speaking French to your mom. If you can just -- I know you've got your mom is French, your dad, American.

MARTIN TRAINER: Yeah.

DOUG MILNE: If you could just kind of run us through where you grew up and school, that kind of thing.

MARTIN TRAINER: Yeah, I was born in France in Marseille and I grew up speaking French with my mom and speaking English with my dad. Then when I was five years old we moved to California and that's where I grew up from then on. But yeah, I still speak French to my mom to this day.

Q. What does it mean to you winning this title in Puerto Rico?

MARTIN TRAINER: I mean, it's an incredible feeling and it's just really cool, especially with what happened last year, to be able to come back here. They had this event, they ran it really well. I think everyone had a great time and it's just such an honor to win after what happened last year.

Q. In which point of the tournament did you feel was the hardest point for you?

MARTIN TRAINER: I think just teeing off on the first hole today was really difficult because, you know, obviously there's a lot at stake and the difference between shooting 3 over par and 4 under par is huge.

These are the types of moments that make your year. If you play well, then you get rewarded. If you don't play well, then, you know, it can really change your future as a player. So once I got going, I felt a little more secure, especially I got off to a really good start, that helped. But it was in the back of my mind all day. Just to come through in the end is really cool.

Q. At what point did you feel like you were about to win or like you felt you really were about to get that victory, what did that feel like?

MARTIN TRAINER: I think that moment came on the 17th hole after I didn't hit it in the water off the tee and I actually hit the fairway. I thought, okay, if I have a two-shot lead, I'm in the fairway, I think my chances are pretty good. So I was able to hit it on the green and two-putt.

And then on 18 I had a couple-shot lead, so I felt pretty good about that. Yeah, I mean, even despite that, I still couldn't believe that I was leading and I was going to win. I was just thinking in my mind somehow maybe it's not going to go well and I'm not going to win, because you don't want to get ahead of yourself and think, oh, I've got this, and then have something happen or maybe another one of the players birdied the last three holes to tie me or something like that. I have no idea. So I didn't want to tell myself that I had this in the bag. I just kept going and kept hitting and that's all you can do.

Q. How would you assess your season so far up to this point? Maybe not the results you were looking for, but have you had just a lot of learning I guess so far this year?

MARTIN TRAINER: Yeah. I started off the season struggling with my game a little bit and I only made one cut in the fall. Then this offseason I took a little break, went and visited some family in France and came back and worked on my game and I was kind of refreshed after a long year on the Web.com Tour. My game since then has been pretty good, but obviously it's just so difficult out here. The players are so good, they're the best in the world, and I was able to, I guess, prove that I belonged today.

Q. I was wondering, was there any point that you realized that you were going to win the tournament?

MARTIN TRAINER: You know, I figured I was probably going to win when I was on the 18th hole, but again, you just never know. You never know what the players behind me are going to do. Maybe the leaderboard is wrong. You just never know. I just tried to hit the shots and, you know, obviously I made birdie, which I think made me think, okay, I probably won now. On the 18th hole I thought it was one of those things where it's like I'm 90 percent sure I'm going to win, but I don't know.

DOUG MILNE: Okay. Well, Martin, congratulations on your first PGA TOUR win.

MARTIN TRAINER: Thank you so much.

DOUG MILNE: We'll see you at Honda Classic.

MARTIN TRAINER: Sound good to me.