

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW**  
**February 24, 2019**



**PAUL CASEY (-11)**

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**Q. Bit of a star of our show throughout this week, giving us the insight on the altitude, and you backed it up with a performance, but you were 1 over after two rounds, 12 under on the weekend. What changed?**

**PAUL CASEY:** Had some comedy on the weekend as well, didn't we? What changed? I was generally fatigued, I think, from Pebble Beach and then L.A. last week, AT&T Genesis, and then hit the reset button after I was 2 over, I think. After -- I don't know, 35 holes, just said, "Let's attack this, let's shoot 10 under on the weekend." And I did. Yeah, plain and simple, just sort of got my head together and went for it.

**Q. Now, you can't shoot these sorts of scores without being dialed in with the exact, precise detail, you know, like pin positions and stuff like that. Tell us what happened with Johnny Longsocks with the wrong flags. And also, how do you manage to birdie 11 when it was nowhere where it was supposed to be?**

**PAUL CASEY:** So, correct. Very briefly. 10, we played to a position on the green. We knew where the flag was, because we could see it. 11, I played to a position on the green, 10 on. He actually had the pin right on 11, because he had the pin sheets out. We get to 12, he said, "Do you need a number?" No, because you hit driver down there. It wasn't till the 13th where he said, "You need to land it on about 17." And I said, "Well, the pin's only 13 on the green." He suddenly looked in his book and he realized he had written down in his book every single pin that was wrong, and he couldn't figure out why. Eventually figured out it was because of the Puerto Rico pins that he pulled off the internet the night before. And for the only time in his life, he didn't double check them in the morning sitting in the breakfast room.

We actually did not make a mistake yesterday because we played to a position on the green rather than the pin position. And we caught ourselves when we played to a pin.

But he's gotten all sorts of abuse. I mean, Westwood threw him fully under the bus on Twitter yesterday and everybody wailed in on it. And then we get the right pins today and we start off with three birdies. So, I mean, it was brilliant. Johnny's amazing.

**Q. Yeah, you're never safe on social media these days.**

**Paul, one last thing. How happy are you with your up-and-down? That was worth much gold there on the final hole. And also, where your game is now, going into the thick of the season.**

**PAUL CASEY:** My game feels really good. I was very happy with the up-and-down, obviously. There was a lot of world ranking points, FedEx points. This is obviously a closed sanctioned, as European Race to Dubai points. I said FedEx, right?

I mean, it's everything. I mean, it was a big deal. And playing a limited schedule between both tours, it's important I capitalize events like this. So I want to be kind of in the thick of things and maybe with a chance to win a Race to Dubai as well. That would be really fun. So, big stuff. Game's good, looking forward to it.

The next two events coming up for me are going to be THE PLAYERS Championship and then defending my title at Valspar. So, I got two weeks off, going to be fresh for those.

**Q. Enjoy the week off. Great playing.**

**PAUL CASEY:** Cheers. Thank you guys.

**Q. 36 holes, you're 1 over. Now you're sitting pretty, tied for third. What's been the difference for you?**

**PAUL CASEY:** I don't know really. We talked about -- I have talked about hitting sort of the reset button. After 34 holes I was two over par for the tournament and I just said, "Let's pick this up, Johnny." Speaking to Johnny, my caddie. And I wasn't playing bad golf. Maybe a little bit tired from the last two PGA Tour events where we've had -- we had the Monday finish and then all the rain delays last week. I just said, "Come on, let's just attack this. Let's figure out a way."

I'm not sure I could give you an answer as to what we did differently, but I pulled it off. I moved way up there. And I wanted to. There's a lot at stake. I'm not playing that many European Tour events. And the ones which are closed sanctioned, such as this, it's a big deal if I can make as many points as I can to try and get myself up in the Race to Dubai.

**Q. Best start today, birdie, birdie, birdie. I'm guessing Johnny had the right pin positions.**

**PAUL CASEY:** He's got so much abuse for that. Yes, he had the right pin positions. And even though he had the wrong pin positions written in his book yesterday and he's got -- yeah, social media has torn him to pieces. We never really made a mistake, because we played to a yardage on the green, and we could see the pins. And he didn't really look at the -- you know, where the pin was per se in his book. It wasn't until the 13th when we suddenly looked. "Are you sure?" He accused me of having it wrong as well, which I really liked. So, we never made a mistake.

But Johnny is one of those guys -- he is one of the best caddies on Tour, so any time

you can kind of get one up on Johnny or throw him under the bus, guys want to do it.

**Q. (Inaudible) WGC, you're pretty one of the guys we're most surprised we haven't seen lift a trophy. Obviously, the match plays has been your favorite. The next one coming up around the corner, are you looking for to it?**

**PAUL CASEY:** I am, yeah. I love match play. The course in Austin is tricky. I have not had maybe the success I had when match play used to be the straight knock-out down in Tucson, in Arizona. But I still love it. And without question, it's a great opportunity for me to win a WGC. And then next -- later in the year we're now going to Memphis for a WGC. And that's a golf course I love as well. So I still feel like I'm one of the older guys now, 41, but there's no reason why I can't lift one of these things.

**Q. Nice going. What did you find (inaudible)?**

**PAUL CASEY:** Not a lot changed. I felt like a bit more aggressive with some of the putts. We changed a little bit of strategy (inaudible) on 9, I hit driver off 18. I hit driver off (inaudible) and got a bit of a mess on 18 a minute ago. Tried to push right through. But the game is in good position. Mainly just a bit of fatigue the first two days after Pebble and L.A. Felt a bit flat. So it was more probably just a psychological reset than anything else.

**Q. Did you have a good chuckle (inaudible) 3 under?**

**PAUL CASEY:** Of course I did, yeah. With the correct pins, and we were still the same score.

He's got so much abuse. I mean, the thing is, as you know, Johnny is one of the most professional caddies out here, incredibly diligent. So any time you can get one up on Johnny, it's a good thing. That's why he's been so firmly thrown under the bus.

**Q. When you looked at the leaderboard and saw what DJ was doing, (inaudible), do you think there's something about this golf course, or is it just his style?**

**PAUL CASEY:** Something about DJ, he's just that good. I don't think it matters what golf course you put him at. Put him at Chapultepec, you can put him anywhere, it doesn't really matter, when he's on. He's the best right now.

**Q. (Inaudible) Augusta, your thoughts (inaudible.)**

**PAUL CASEY:** I love it. I'm very keen to -- yeah, very keen. Feel that the game's in good position. I think without pressure it's my best opportunity to win a major this year, looking at the courses we're going to. And I love all the courses we're going on. I actually don't know Portrush. But the others, yeah, it's my best chance. So, got a hot final round there last year. I'm going to need a little bit of assistance. You see guys like

Dustin, what they're doing today, and Rory, this week in general. My best golf against their best golf, I still lose. But a little bit of good luck, without question it's a good opportunity for me.

**Q. Thank you.**