

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
July 28, 2019



BRANDT SNEDEKER

DOUG MILNE: Like to welcome the defending -- not only the defending champion of the Wyndham Championship, but the 2007 and 2018 champion of the Wyndham Championship.

Brandt, congratulations on last year's win, especially with the 59 to open up and the wire-to-wire win last year. Just a few comments on being back here in an event where you've got your first PGA TOUR title and to win like you did in the fashion you did last year.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, you know, big smile on my face when I pulled up today. It's kind of nice to come back here with all these great memories kind of come flooding back. Seeing my picture up on the wall and knowing what I was able to accomplish last year gives me a little confidence going into this week.

It's obviously a huge week for everybody in the field, for guys trying to keep their card, for guys trying to move up in the FedExCup point list, for a guy like me who every point really matters right now trying to solidify a good regular season and get ready -- I'm trying to make East Lake. So there's a lot on the line this week and it's nice to come in here to a place that's been so special to me and so great to me over the years.

So I'm really excited about it. It's just a fun place. I really love this golf course, I love the community, the way they've kind of embraced me. And last year was such a special week. I don't think I'll be able to recreate it to say the least, but I'll do my best to make sure I do a good job trying to defend my title.

DOUG MILNE: Your year's been solid, you've kind of danced around capturing that 10th title, four top-5 finishes. Just a few comments about kind of the state of your game as you're heading into the week.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I had a really good round on Sunday last week in Memphis and felt like I really kind of got on some good stuff before I came here. So it's been a solid year, kind of a little bit up and down, not as great as I would like it to be because I haven't had a win. That's kind of how I judge myself every year out here. If you get a win, it's been a successful year; if you don't, it hasn't.

So working hard on trying to get that done before the end of the year, but played some really good golf, put myself in position a few times and just haven't for whatever reason been able to close out the deal. So coming to a place like this where I have a lot of great history, a lot of confidence on the golf course and know how to play it, if I can get my ball-striking to where it needs to be, which it was there on Sunday last week and had a lot of confidence going into this week, I should have a pretty good opportunity of having a good finish and

maybe actually doing what I was coming here to do, which is to defend my title, which would be nice.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about shooting the 59 in the first round and the pressure it put on you?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, that's probably one of the things I'm most proud of after the whole thing last year, kind of the storybook way last year went was dealing with that pressure after 59. Fifty-nine was such a cool moment and such a great place, has such a great place in my memory and the history of the game obviously, but doing it on Thursday when you've got three more days to deal with, A, all the questions, B, all the kind of attention you draw on yourself, and then most importantly, the expectations you have on yourself.

You have a five-shot lead or four-shot lead after the first day, play that kind of round of golf, you can't really think of anything other than messing it up from there, to be honest with you.

So it's hard to kind of deal with that, try to get over it and make sure you get back into what made you successful that first day. So I did a good job of that. I told Justin Thomas the next week, I have more respect for him and when he went through at Sony when he did it because until you've sat in those shoes after Thursday, you realize it's a ton of pressure, not only externally but more importantly internally, because you don't want to let one slip through your fingers after a great round like that. You want to kind of top it off the right way. So I'm really proud I was able to hang in there and get it done.

Q. First year of the Wyndham Rewards, how has that changed sort of the mindset out here on Tour, or has it changed the mindset?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I think it's in the process of changing the mind. I think this year was kind of a wait-and-see attitude with it. I think it's a great idea, a great bonus for guys that have a great regular season to kind of give them this carrot at the end of the rainbow, or pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, so to say.

Looks like Brooks locked it up, so it's going to be a great week for him regardless. I think next year hopefully it's going to create a little bit more drama, guys realize how important it will be.

And I used the analogy when I was here a few weeks ago, it's very similar to the FedExCup the first year we had it. Guys didn't really know what to expect, didn't really know how it was going to look or play out, kind of a wait-and-see attitude, and then the second year guys really got on board, like oh, my gosh, this is a huge deal.

So I think next year you'll see more and more guys kind of realize how important this is and try to kind of build their schedule on making sure they're here so they have a chance of winning that bonus money.

Q. Just a follow-up to that, are you also surprised that guys that are like seven through 10, other than Paul, didn't show up this week?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: You know, it's tough. I get why, because we have three big events coming up. We had two big events back to back to back, so guys are tired. Hot time of year, so they look like this as their off week before the Playoffs start.

Obviously next year things might be different. Guys might see that as a huge bonus or a huge added incentive to come out here and play. Maybe if they tweak it a little bit, do something a little bit different next year with the way the prize money's shelled out, it might entice more guys to come.

Q. How much of a factor do you think the fact that you'll have an off week next week? Four guys, I guess, four Americans might be in the Olympics, but everybody else will be off.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, that'll be huge. I think that'll definitely -- scheduling this year was obviously a little tricky because of the new schedule being condensed the way it was. Next year's going to go even trickier with the Olympics being the way it is. So I don't think we have a true case of what the schedule's going to look like until probably two years from now or the year after next. So guys will have a better idea coming with how to schedule, plan out their year so that they are fresh for these big tournaments late in the year and they can make adjustments in their schedule to make sure they are here if they need to be if they're looking like they're going to have a chance at winning the Wyndham Rewards bonus.

Q. Do you know the last repeat player here?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I do not, but if I had to take a wild guess, Sam Snead. He won so many times.

Q. Does it put any more pressure on you?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: No, I think the first time I came back in 2008, I put a ton of pressure on myself to play well and I missed the cut and played terrible.

Now I've been defending champion a few times out here on Tour, I realize every week's totally separate, totally indifferent to what happened the week before. So as great as last year was and all these memories coming flooding back, I realize this is a totally different battle this week; a different golf course, a different field I'm playing against. And me, I'm a different player than I was a year ago. So I need to make sure I'm ready to go Thursday afternoon and that my game's where it needs to be and realize I have to kind of leave last year where it is in the past.

DOUG MILNE: Brandt, best of luck to you this week.