

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
November 18, 2019



BRENDON TODD (-20)

MARK WILLIAMS: I would like to welcome our champion for the 2019 Mayakoba Golf Classic, Brendon Todd. Congratulations. It seems like deja vu, it was just a couple weeks ago that we were doing the same thing. Pretty amazing turnaround from the trials that you've had, we all know that situation.

BRENDON TODD: Right.

MARK WILLIAMS: What does it mean to you to win here in Mexico at Mayakoba back to back after the previous victory?

BRENDON TODD: Oh, this is super special. This win might honestly mean more to me than the last one, this being a full FedExCup event, full \$7.2 million purse and a resort that I just love. I've been to this tournament four or five times, always have a great time. Great support from the locals and from the staffs at the resort and club, and then the golf course is just fantastic. So it's been a special week.

MARK WILLIAMS: You just mentioned the FedExCup. You do take the lead, you move from 17th to No. 1, so that's a pretty high number right there. Going forward, I understand you're playing next week.

BRENDON TODD: I am.

MARK WILLIAMS: And then you'll head to Maui --

BRENDON TODD: Right.

MARK WILLIAMS: -- which you're already in, but it's another place in paradise, just like Bermuda and Mayakoba. Just talk about that.

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, I seem to be playing well here on the vacation spots and all these tropical resorts. Sea Island's another wonderful destination on the coast of Georgia, so hopefully I'll go there and keep the magic going. And then obviously Maui and the Sony Open at Wai'alaie Country Club are just two more fantastic tropical places. We're on a nice swing of golf here and I'm playing really well and I'm just enjoying it.

MARK WILLIAMS: Before we take some questions, just talk about last night, having to stop in the dark, having four holes left and coming out again and doing the preparation in a short period of time for that. Just talk about those four holes this morning.

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, I didn't finish very well yesterday making a par, five, on 13 and then making the bogey on 14, so I was a little frustrated because I felt like I already had some chances to build my lead and the putts hadn't fallen. To then drop basically two shots and then fall back into a tie there with Vaughan, I was a little disappointed going into last night.

But I did a good job of trying to just brush it off and look at it as an opportunity this morning. I got some good sleep from 9:30 to 3:30, but I woke up thinking about golf and just couldn't go back to sleep. Came out, had my normal warm-up. My game and my body felt great this morning and I would say it showed because I was definitely feeling some nerves out there and I hit a lot of good shots.

MARK WILLIAMS: Making that comment late last night, the last question you had was, "What do you need to do in the morning," and you said, "Make that first putt," and you came back and you did it. How big was that?

BRENDON TODD: It was so huge. I think playoff at best if I miss that first putt, you know, because 16's not a birdie hole, we all bogeyed it in our final group. Seventeen is a tricky pin and 18's a tough par hole as well. That was just really big to come out and make the birdie and get the lead.

Q. You remained optimistic throughout your trials of missing cuts and whatnot. Were your parents optimistic, or where did you learn that optimism, because it was quite tested and you held on to it?

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, there's no doubt my parents are generally pretty positive people. We've never -- nobody in our family really has been one to focus on the negatives or, you know, just we usually give each other a hard time if you're being negative or a quitter or whatnot.

I think a lot of it for me was just the self belief I had and all the previous success I've had. Like I told you before, I've won at the highest level of junior golf, highest level of college golf and I've won at all levels of pro golf before I had the struggles. And I had already been through a slump like that in 2010, so while it did last longer and I did consider maybe looking for other things to do, I always knew if I got my game back, I would know how to play at this level; it's just a matter of can I hit the ball between the trees.

Q. Brendon, the course seemed to play a little faster day after day the drier it got.

BRENDON TODD: It did.

Q. Was it difficult to adjust to the changes and particularly the wind yesterday?

BRENDON TODD: You know, I think even though it was drying out, the ball still was sitting pretty soft in the fairways and the greens remained receptive. So the difficult part from the

conditions was really just always keeping an eye on the speed of the greens because that fluctuated a little bit from day to day.

And then yeah, like you said, navigating the wind, because every day it blew eight to 12 and you can't feel any wind when you're in the fairways or on the tee boxes because you have the bushes surrounding you, so you're always looking at your compass, trying to stick to the wind direction of the day and do your best to hit a solid shot.

Q. Can you go through your mindset on 18? I mean, you didn't hit a great tee shot.

BRENDON TODD: Right.

Q. And then you get close to -- I think the chip shot was as big as your putt. So what were you thinking there when you got close to the green?

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, I was a little nervous on 18, but my game plan was just to hit the ball in play and then hit it by the green and make par and force Vaughan to make a birdie to beat me.

My drive only missed the fairway by a yard and I had a good lie. I actually was surprised I hit it that short of the green. And then, yeah, the chip was very big, but I did draw a pretty nice lie there. That's a strength of my game is chipping, so it was nice to hit a good pitch up there and put myself in a position where I felt like I could make that putt nine out of 10.

Q. One more thing. The fact that the groupings didn't change because of the rain and all that and you were not that exposed to local crowds, do you think that helped having a quieter round?

BRENDON TODD: I don't think the crowds really mattered, I would have been fine either way. But I was playing with Harris English, who's a Georgia Bulldog, and Vaughn Taylor, who lives in Georgia as well, so two guys I'm very good friends with and that just made it real pleasant. It was definitely a good pairing for me.

Q. You mentioned that you have won at every level. Have you won back to back as a junior or in college? And what's next for you? I mean, have you given that a moment's thought, like how high can you take this?

BRENDON TODD: I don't think I've won back to back to my knowledge. If I did, it was when I was 12 or 13 playing just smaller junior events.

You know, I think after Bermuda, I felt good enough about my game there and had enough confidence, and I even said in an interview the goal is to win multiple times this year. I've never done that. I think it's an impressive feat when guys win multiple times in one year on the PGA TOUR because it is so difficult to win, and that's my main goal.

I mean, when I only had one win and I was struggling and even coming back, like my friends that had three, four and five wins, I was like envious because I feel like I'm capable of being a guy who wins five or 10 times out here, but I hadn't proven that. To have the opportunity now to go out and keep playing for three, four, five, 10, 15 more years out here and chase wins is a big deal for me and something I'm looking forward to.

Q. So which hole from El Camaleon do you consider was the most difficult for you?

BRENDON TODD: The most difficult hole, probably by my score would have been 14 because I played it one over par, but 16 I think probably presents the most challenge from the tee shot, the length of the hole and then the large undulating green. But I did have a nice birdie there I think in my opening round and then let a par slip away today, but that's another great hole out here.

Q. Two wins in a row, No. 1 in the FedExCup and speculation of an injury to Brooks Koepka, has it crossed your mind that Tiger could consider you as a captain's pick as a replacement with playing as well as you have?

BRENDON TODD: It hasn't, except that before the Bermuda Championship I was on the driving range with Jerry Foltz and he said something like, "Oh, your game looks good, win three in a row and maybe you'll make the Presidents Cup," and he was like, "No, actually if you win three in a row, you still won't make the Presidents Cup, but go for it anyways."

I haven't thought about that. It would be nice to play well next year and have a chance at the Ryder Cup. Playing the cup teams is definitely a dream of mine and hopefully something I'll achieve.

Q. Brendon, on Friday, the first day, it seemed that most shots, particularly with a high apex, would drop and stick and not continue moving forward. That pretty much held up for a couple more days from what I could see. How difficult does that make it for you to judge the movement forward of the ball once it hits?

BRENDON TODD: Well, honestly, it kind of makes it easy because you know wherever you fly it, it's going to stop. That's why when you see soft greens on the PGA TOUR, you see low scores. You could make the golf course 8,000 yards and high rough, but if you have soft greens, you will see low scores out here because guys are so good at hitting the ball accurately. For me, the soft greens just kind of took one more variable out of the equation.

Q. We're all looking at a pretty amazing comeback story. When you look around you, what's your favorite comeback story, either in golf or in a movie or a book or anything like that.

BRENDON TODD: Wow. I love the Rocky movies, so I know Rocky had a pretty good comeback there in the middle of his career, or actually towards the end of his career, so Rocky V would probably be my favorite sports comeback movie.

But at the moment it's tough for me to sit here and evaluate that because I haven't paid that much attention to all the different comeback stories in sports that I could give you one right now.

Q. Brendon, you said during those years that you were having some down years you considered other things. What were those other things?

BRENDON TODD: I've been told by a handful of people in the corporate world that I'd make a good businessman or a good real estate guy or something, but it never really interests me to go get an office job.

But last fall I did sit down with my financial manager and we did talk about maybe opening up a franchise, maybe a pizza franchise or a food franchise or something. That was about as far as we got. We had the meeting, we talked about it, we set up a future meeting and then I qualified for the RSM, and then we cancelled the meeting and I just played golf. As Jorge said out there, I've made myself a nice new business and I'm enjoying it.

Q. Carlos Ortiz considers this almost his home basketball court if you were playing basketball, but his home course. Did you feel at all pressured by the fact that he stayed right up there about number two and right behind you most of the time?

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, I saw his name coming up the leaderboard. Considering I was pretty sure he shot 10 or 11 under yesterday during the 34 holes that he played, or 35 holes, I viewed him as a threat that could have potentially tied it up with me at some point, and then knowing he had to play one more hole today, so I never knew where he was going to finish. But Carlos played an unbelievable tournament this week and I think you should be proud of the way he played.

MARK WILLIAMS: Just perhaps one final comment. You were standing on that last green watching Vaughn Taylor putt for birdie with you having a par putt remaining. What was going through your mind then and did you think he was going to make that?

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, walking up to the green I told my caddie, "We've got to get this up and down because Vaughn's going to make it." He really putted so well especially on the first nine in the third round. He didn't make as many putts in this fourth round, but I think he's a great putter and I expected him to make it, so I was a little concerned.

It felt good that I had a fairly straight four-footer to match him if he did make it, so I was just lucky that his ball came up short because I think he hit a nice putt.

MARK WILLIAMS: Well, we appreciate your time. Congratulations on the victory and keep it going.

BRENDON TODD: Thanks, Mark. Thank you all.