

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**19 December 2019**



**BRETT RANKIN**

---

**BRETT RANKIN:** It was 12 months ago I needed a good week here just to keep my card. So end up having to go to Q-School a couple weeks after this event last year and just been doing a lot of work with Richard Woodhouse and things have just come together. I'm just in a good space technically. I feel like I can work the ball both ways at will at the moment, and I'm just starting to get the putter going again so it's been a really consistent year. I'm really happy with the year. I won a couple four-day events. I won Darwin in the year as well. It's been a year of firsts and I'm definitely happy with where the game is at the moment, for sure.

**Q. I know we spoke about the value of winning the pro-ams and the confidence that you get from that. What about winning NT PGA and getting that on the resume?**

**BRETT RANKIN:** Yeah, winning NT PGA just sort of gives you that confidence you know you can do it, your best golf can win on this tour. It's a tough tour, there's so many good players out here. So you gain that confidence from winning multiple pro-ams and you take that to the next level, you win a tour event, and the next you're like, okay, I belong here. You gain confidence just from doing that.

It's also just a bit of a stress relief, to be honest. You question it, you think about it and you're like, am I good enough to win, and you finally do it. You sort of tick that box and you're like, all right, let's go to bigger and better things.

**Q. Yeah, have you thought that far ahead? Did you look at any Q-School this year?**

**BRETT RANKIN:** I did go to Europe and actually had my only poor week of the whole year at first stage, didn't get through. So the goal now is to try to have a really good week this week and if that can sort of punt me up in that top-10 Order of Merit, that kind of opens the door for a few other Q-schools later next year. Kind of just want to focus on this week, get this week done and then see where I stand. I might look to go to China or I don't know, maybe go back to Asia, I don't know yet. I just want to go through this week and see where I stand.

**Q. Talk us through the round starting at 10, that's the harder of the course. How do you feel you got through that and then obviously you catch quite a bit of momentum?**

**BRETT RANKIN:** Yeah, definitely off to a good start. I hit like a 9-iron to about a foot on 11, so it was a little tap-in there. Just drove the ball really well on the back nine, so I gave myself plenty of looks. Had like a three-footer for birdie on 12, so all of a sudden I'm 2 under through three, feeling pretty comfortable. I know my game's good and I just sort of cruised along. Then I got hot towards the back, or the front nine, our back nine today. I missed a

couple short ones out there, too, so it could have been really good, to be honest. I'll take 67.

**Q. How was 7 playing today and what did you hit in there?**

**BRETT RANKIN:** I hit driver, sand wedge into 7 today. I hit a good drive down there to about nine and a half meters I think I had, then that makes that hole pretty easy with a wedge in instead of 6- or 7-iron, because I was driving the ball really well. Normally I would only hit 2-iron, maybe 3-wood off there, but I was driving so well. Like stay aggressive, you're driving it well, let's take advantage of the opportunities. I hit a really good drive down the last there, too. I only hit 9-iron into the last so it makes that hole easy, makes the rest of the golf course easy when you're hitting short irons in.

**Q. Did you play short of 8? Obviously a tricky pin there.**

**BRETT RANKIN:** Yeah, just 2-iron off that tee, just put it in position, take the water out of play. Actually hit a really nice shot in there to about 15 feet. I saw the hole and it just dove off at the end and just lipped out. It could have easily been 6 or 7 under. It's been a good day, I'm happy with the way it's been.

**Q. Take me back to Q-School again going there and having to do that again. At that point do you ever kind of question what you're doing and whether you're, you know --**

**BRETT RANKIN:** You do. I wasn't really questioning at the end of last year because I knew I was playing well. It was a weird situation, I was going back to Q-School to improve my status to try to get in Vic Open and Perth and stuff like that, but I had a backup category so I was kind of, I finished top-5, you have status, pretty good status. If you don't, you're not worse off. So I probably -- turns out I didn't have to go.

But yeah, I've sort of been in a situation where I was like I can only improve my status this week. I'm not going to lose a card or don't have a job next year. I just knew I was playing well, it's just a matter of time really.

**Q. And you managed to do that? Did you improve --**

**BRETT RANKIN:** Yeah, so winning Darwin cemented my card for this year and next year, so I'm in a great situation.

**Q. Did you get Vic Open and stuff?**

**BRETT RANKIN:** Next year I will, yeah. This year I didn't. I finished sixth at Q-School so I missed by one spot. I think I managed to keep my card on the Order of Merit by two spots or something like that. It was a tough end to last year, but it's all worked out for the good.