

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**July 18, 2021**



**SEAMUS POWER ( -21, won 6<sup>th</sup> playoff hole)**

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**JOHN BUSH:** We would like to welcome the 2021 Barbasol Championship winner, Seamus Power.

Seamus, what a day. If we can get some comments from you, please.

**SEAMUS POWER:** Yeah, it's an incredible day. Yeah, I mean, I started out knowing I was going to need a low one. To be honest, I didn't think 5 under would be low enough, but yeah, I was able to pick one up on the last, squeeze into a playoff and eventually kind of pulled through there after -- the first hole there was very exciting to get the chip-in. Obviously, JT to follow. You're trying to tell yourself he's going to make it, but deep down it's a little bit already thinking ahead. I was able to just kind of stay patient enough there and JT made just one mistake and yeah, I was able to take advantage. But yeah, I mean, unbelievable day, career changing, life changing, all that kind of good stuff. It's not going to sink in for a while.

**JOHN BUSH:** Huge jump in the FedExCup standings, two-year exemption on the Tour, just comment a little bit on what that means to you and now your new goals going down the stretch.

**SEAMUS POWER:** Absolutely. I probably have to take three days to kind of figure out some goals. Whatever, probably two months ago just to get into the Playoffs, I would have been absolutely over the moon. I had a good round of golf, but the win is obviously a two-year exemption and someone said I'm in THE PLAYERS and PGA Championship and that kind of stuff. so everything's going to change at least for the immediate future. So, again, I haven't really let that sink in yet, it's just kind of still hitting me that I'm holding this trophy. They're all kind of good things I'll have to deal with here soon.

**JOHN BUSH:** You birdied two out of the last three holes in regulation. When you signed your card, you really didn't know where you stood. You really thought you were out of it, right?

**SEAMUS POWER:** I did. I'm not a big leaderboard watcher so I didn't really know, but at the start of the day the conditions were perfect today. I thought I might need to get to 23. But that's golf. You don't know if there's pressure, some trouble there on the last few holes. But yeah, I didn't birdie 15, got a good birdie on 16 and had a horrible lip-out for birdie on 17, so I kind of stayed aggressive on 18 and was able to get one more and it proved to be enough to get me in the playoff.

**Q. Obviously there's a difference between the mental capacity that a golfer holds versus people who are sitting there watching you. We were all nervous at every single**

**shot that you guys took. Did you have any of that weigh in on you, maybe that mental collapse that could happen, or how positive were you mentally?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** I was actually in a pretty good frame of mind, to be honest. It's my first time in a playoff, didn't really know what to expect, but I've been playing well recently, had a lot of confidence. And then I like that hole. I just birdied it in regulation, so I feel good with my 3-wood in my hand. I knew I was going to have some chances there, but you're trying to block out those thoughts as best you can, but they do try to sneak in. You just have to -- you've got to remember some of the things you've learned from some very, very smart people that kind of helped you in those situations and you go from there and do the best you can.

**Q. Congratulations, Seamus. What felt longer, 106 starts or the six-hole playoff to get this victory?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** The playoff definitely started to feel longer. Even when it was over I wasn't actually sure how many holes we played. Yeah, I mean, both. I mean, both of them obviously. Haven't really had too many opportunities to win. I've had some maybe good positions after two or three rounds or maybe some good last rounds, but it's been better recently. I put myself in a couple of good spots and it definitely helped me today where I felt I was a little bit more in control than it would have maybe been four, five months ago. It's a lot of hard work to get to these points and it was able to just come together at the correct time.

**Q. What club did you use for the chip-in and did you think of using any other club at that point?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** No. I used my 54-degree wedge and it was a good lie, got fortunate. I chip a lot with my 58, but being just a little bit uphill on the softer greens, it was perfect for the 54. Again, it was an absolutely perfect lie. It wasn't the most difficult chip, but obviously in the circumstances it was a bonus it went in.

**Q. Do you think anybody's awake watching in County Waterford?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** I would say there's a few. I haven't got to my phone yet, but I would imagine there's a few. Quite a few pints being still drank there.

**Q. Who gets the first call back there?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** I mean, definitely my dad. I'm sure he's still up. He probably won't sleep for a week. Whenever I get out of here, I'll give him a shout. I'm sure he's already sent me some messages. The list of people to call is just incredibly long. You guys have been around enough golfers, there's so many people it takes to get to this point, your sponsors and your coaches and your helpers and your family and friends and all that kind of stuff. It all matters, so I have a long list of phone calls here to make.

**Q. Seamus, congratulations. You've heard the talk the last couple of weeks, we know the last couple of months it feels like there's so many playoffs on the PGA TOUR and it's not just one or two holes but multiple holes. Can you explain how competitive this tour is right now?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** Yeah, I mean, it's incredible. My caddie and I talk about it all the time. The last -- my last three, four weeks, it's unbelievable. You could finish 15th and be three shots out of the playoff. It's just there's so many guys playing good golf. The standard of golf right now, I mean, I don't know, it just seems like there's so many good players and so many players that are playing well under pressure.

Collin Morikawa today is an unbelievable example. He's 24, is he? He's 24? I watched him for 16 holes and it looked like he was out playing with his buddies on a Saturday, to be honest. It was remarkable.

You seem to have more guys capable of doing that whether it's -- for me it was a Tiger Woods influence. He's the guy that you kind of saw do this in these situations. I guess a lot of people grew up watching him and that's the kind of stuff you're trying to like copy under pressure. But it is amazing. Just as you said, a couple of shots here and there. I haven't even seen the final leaderboard, but there's probably guys three shots out and they're struggling to finish in the top-10. It's just amazing. Yeah, that's why everything matters right from the get-go on Thursday morning, you've got to get into tournaments, you can't let the tournament come to you it seems like anymore, and you've got to stay aggressive, and I was kind of lucky enough to be able to do that.

**Q. Seamus, you have such a positive -- seem to have a very positive outlook, but how did you maintain that? How do you maintain that as you don't have the successes that you thought you might?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** Yeah, I mean, it's -- to me it's all perspective. I view myself as extremely lucky. I'm 34 and I've yet to work a day in my life. So every time I get to play a tournament or play an extra year on Tour, to me it's a massive bonus. I love playing golf, it's my favorite thing to do, so for me just being able -- obviously not the success, but this is my fifth year on PGA TOUR. You do have some level of success and just being able to enjoy that as best I can. If you look around the world, like we have it better than -- we're very fortunate. We're very, very fortunate. I think if you can just keep that in perspective. It's easy sometimes to get that into comparing mode, compare yourself to other guys who have won tournaments and this and that. You've just got to be happy for people who have put in the work and it's paid off, and thankfully this week it was me.

Yeah, even if I didn't win, my attitude is I still would try to be very much on the positive side. It's still golf, I still get a check for playing golf and I don't have to work in an office from 9:00 to 5:00, so I'm very, very lucky.

**Q. As you had this hot streak, did you feel like you were on the verge of victory?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** I did, yes. My game is actually very good since about February, February or March time. I struggled in the fall, didn't get into any tournaments in my category. I had to get elbow surgery in November, so it was all a bit of a struggle. Then January I wasn't really able to practice properly, so it was only February or March I knew my game was in the best spot it's probably been in my life, and then it was just a matter of trying to stay patient, try to get into some tournaments.

I played a Korn Ferry Tour event in Vegas in March, which was probably my first time being in contention for a while. I only finished tied for ninth, but it gave me the confidence that I played pretty well under pressure and then from there I was able to Monday qualify a couple of times, get a couple of good spots.

I was in a good spot in Dallas, I think I was maybe second with nine holes to go, and I didn't handle the rain particularly well on the back nine, dropped a couple of shots, but felt like I learned a lot. I was able to put myself in a couple more good situations and gradually just trying to learn, like learn how I react under this situation, how my caddie and I react under this situation.

Then today I was able to pick up two in the last three even after three-putting the par 5, which is obviously a frustrating moment, but was able to just settle myself enough that I was able to hit some good shots coming in and just get one on the last and sneak into a playoff.

**Q. Seamus, you mentioned playing on the Korn Ferry Tour. Can you talk about the level of competition out there and how thin the wall is between Korn Ferry and PGA TOUR?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** Yeah, it's amazing. It's been a couple years since I played out there regularly, but the standard is fantastic. When people ask, people ask me this back home, I always say like the top, top guys on the PGA TOUR are a step -- you know, they're a step up. The guys that are winning, they're a step up, but there's a lot of guys that you could swap in and out and it wouldn't be any dropout. The standard is that high, in my opinion at least.

The courses are a little different and that sort of stuff, and maybe there's more experienced guys out here, but the standard is fantastic. Like I played, I'm not sure, two or three Korn Ferry Tour events this season and a couple last season. Yeah, the standard's fantastic. You see the guys, Will Zalatoris and the guy who just graduated from the Korn Ferry with three wins and he's already competing. That tour prepares guys as well as any Tour could. I mean, you play a very similar schedule, you play a lot of the same guys. Yeah, the standard's incredible.

**Q. Congratulations. That was interesting viewing. I'm sure the nerves were pretty bad in West Waterford watching that, but that was a fantastic victory. Just wondering, you spoke to me maybe a week or so ago about Bob Rotella and how important that was**

**for you. Was that important for you today getting over the line there?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** Yeah, absolutely huge. As I said, I've picked up so much, so many things from some guys like Doc like that who was just -- you know even in the playoff you're just trying to remember what he told you and just trying to keep it as simple as possible.

Yeah, it's massive. There's no way -- he got me just back on the correct path. That's kind of -- a lot of things have led me to this point, but that was a huge kind of help. Coming down the stretch in tournaments and in those pressure situations, it's absolutely huge, yeah.

**Q. Just wanted to ask you, obviously you've had a very interesting journey to get where you are today with the E-Golf Tour and the Korn Ferry Tour. Were there any moments even more recently where you felt that it was going to be beyond you, that you weren't going to be able to achieve what you've achieved today, or did you always have the belief?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** Again, I've been asked that. Like my thought process always with golf is that if at any point I didn't think I was good enough to win or compete at the highest level, I would have stopped playing. I would have done something else. It's like I think if you don't have that way deep down, it's one of those spots that you can say whatever you want, but it's only you are going to know these things when you look in the mirror, and I've never lost that. I felt like I've always been able to win on every level I've been on and obviously not yet on the PGA TOUR. So I felt like I could and that belief definitely never left me. Thankfully, I was able to come through today.

**Q. So what does it mean for you now? Obviously you're exempt until the end of 2023 and you're into all those big events that you mentioned, THE PLAYERS and your first major as well. How does it feel to be able to plan a season like that and play those events?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** Yeah, it's going to be fantastic. Last -- what is this, this 2021, so '19, '20, '21 I was in the not fully exempt category and it's tough, it's frustrating. You want to play, you want to play more, you're looking at guys playing in tournaments passing you and you're looking at your FedEx number dropping and dropping and dropping.

But I knew that was part of it, so it's going to be nice to be able to make my schedule. A lot of it hasn't sunk in yet, to be honest. As someone just mentioned stuff to me, I didn't even know that it guarantees me a spot in THE PLAYERS. It's just fantastic. For now I'm just over the moon with the win and in the next couple days maybe -- maybe not tomorrow, but Tuesday I'll start figuring some of the stuff out.

**Q. Just you mentioned obviously your caddie, Simon, there on the 18th green. It was very difficult to thank all the people that you wanted to thank, but now that you've had a couple of moments maybe to catch your breath, are there people that you remember from your past and growing up at West Waterford Golf Club that played their role in**

**you getting to where you are today, do you think?**

**SEAMUS POWER:** Oh, yeah, absolutely. I mean, without West Waterford Golf Club, I definitely wouldn't be here. I started down there when I was 12, 13 years old. And all of the Spratt family, it was pretty much like my second family, they're incredible. They helped me through all sorts of stuff, it's just incredible. I'll be so happy to see them. I can't wait to see them and talk to them, all the Spratts, all the members at West Waterford. I'll see my own family, and I have a nephew and a niece now. Just the whole thing, just everything comes to this point.

Anyone who's got older brothers knows that that's a massive motivating thing when you're trying to walk like them, you're trying to play like them, just everything right from the start. Family, friends, West Waterford, all the Munster GUI coaching, the national GUI coach, I mean, you don't get here without everyone along the way making a difference and helping you. I can't wait to kind of see them all and thank them all. Hopefully, they were able to stay up and enjoy it.

**JOHN BUSH:** All right. Well, Seamus Power, congratulations, a PGA TOUR winner here at the Barbasol Championship. You.