

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
November 17, 2021



HARRIS ENGLISH

AMANDA HERRINGTON: We'd like to welcome Harris English here to our virtual interview here at the RSM Classic.

Harris, you're making your 10th start at the RSM Classic. Does it feel like 10 years? Ironically, the best finish was last season, which was part of a career season for you on Tour, but just get started on what it's like to be back here for the RSM Classic once again.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, I didn't realize this is my 10th year playing in this tournament. Obviously a home event. It's nice to end the year at home and really everybody in the field getting to see what Sea Island brings. Obviously it's been awesome weather the past couple days. It's just a lot of fun. It's very relaxed this week, and going to some parties, listening to some music, it's been awesome. I'm excited for the week. Ready to get going and end the year on a high note.

AMANDA HERRINGTON: And looking back at last year's T-6, which was kind of sandwiched between a couple other top finishes leading into the new year and your first of two wins last season, just overall state of your trajectory through last season leading up to the first of what would be a two-win season for you.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, I think in some of my best years on the PGA TOUR I've played great in the fall, kind of rode that momentum through the fall and into the first of the year out in Hawaii and some on the west coast.

Played some great golf here, kind of back it up winning with Matt Kuchar at the QBE Shootout and winning at Kapalua. I definitely, I work hard in these tournaments. I'm very focused and kind of use these as a springboard for the new year. It's a place to try some stuff and really see where your game's at heading to our mini offseason. Just like last year, I'm really not going to take off a lot of time this offseason. I'm going to prepare and get ready for the west coast and see if I can use a week like this to build some momentum.

Q. How's the back and what ended up being the issue?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, Sean, good to see you. Yeah, just flared up at the CJ CUP. I was planning on taking a couple weeks off and just really wasn't ready to play Mexico. I wasn't 100 percent and that's kind of what has been my MO the last couple years of I'm going to be 100 percent physically and mentally going into tournaments, and I wasn't ready to play Mexico but I'm ready to play now.

It just flared up. I'm 32 years old and I don't know if I took a bad step walking through the

desert or what, but got it ready to go and looking forward to playing here, playing the Hero and QBE Shootout in a few weeks.

Q. First question, do you like the name Sea Island Mafia? Are you into that?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I don't ever use that. We've had some fun with that and it's actually nice to be a part of that team. Davis Love started it when Lucas Glover was down here, Matt Kuchar, Zach Johnson, so there's definitely a new breed of the mafia and there's definitely a lot of younger guys that are coming on Tour and coming on the Korn Ferry Tour that you'll see a lot more Sea Island guys in the mix.

Q. You just used "mafia," hate to tell you. I was curious, I'm working on a story about it, we know you guys are all friends and close. Day to day when you're not on Tour, are you hanging out with each other? Are you playing golf with each other? Are you having dinner with each other? Just some details on that.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, of course, it definitely helps that I went to college with a lot of these guys down here. Brian Harman, Hudson Swafford, played against Patton Kizzire growing up, Keith Mitchell went to the same high school and went to Georgia as well. Just a lot of good guys out here. We all have similar interests outside of golf whether it's hunting, fishing, watching college football, watching sports, so it's easy to hang out with them. I live in the same neighborhood with a couple of them so we go to each other's house a good bit. Just a very relaxed atmosphere down here and yes, we do all hang out a lot.

Q. Who do you hang out with the most or who do you live closest to?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I live closing to Patton. We live probably four houses down from each other. He just had a second kid, so I don't know if I'm going to be watching as many sports as the last couple years with Patton, but walked down to his house, watching some Braves games these past couple months. It's always fun, college football time we can all get together, that's probably all of our favorite sport to watch.

Q. Harris, just following up on what was asked there before to you, do you get confused for Hudson Swafford even on island?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I do, for sure.

Q. Really? Even at home?

HARRIS ENGLISH: We were roommates in college and teachers would get us mixed up. And even here, there's more people that don't really know us too well, but it will be a quick, "Hey, Hudson, hey, Harris," then they kind of realize after they do a double take that we're not the one they called us. It's fun. We've obviously gotten it since we were 15 or 16 years old, so it's bound to keep happening.

Q. Do you consider the home game an advantage or is it tougher to actually have the home game?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, I mean, there's definitely kind of pros and cons. It's not a normal week, it's not us going on the road, staying in a hotel, staying in a house. Got some family in town. You've just got to embrace it. It's a lot of fun having this tournament. I've learned to embrace it. You can't really treat it as much like a normal week, you've got to have fun. It's great it's at the end of the year, everybody's real relaxed out here and it's just been fun and that's kind of how I've treated it. It's great having some family in to watch. Especially being pretty close to where I grew up, a lot of people I haven't seen in a while are going to come watch me play and it's definitely a blessing to have those people come out and watch.

Q. How does the community celebrate your victories and what do you think would happen if you won this tournament?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, everybody around St. Simons, Brunswick, Glynn County love this event. They almost treat this like a major. I think it's time a St. Simon's resident finally wins the tournament and you would definitely get a lot more recognition if you did win the RSM being from St. Simons. Somebody's going to put a victory on the board and I hope it's me.

Q. Wanted to ask about the Presidents Cup. Obviously you want to make all the national teams. What would it mean to play for Davis? What kind of role has he had in your career and do you think you start lobbying him in the summer at all? What would it be like playing all those casual rounds with a guy who also might be picking you in a few weeks?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Davis has been unbelievable. We all call him Uncle Davis down here. He's the reason a lot of us moved down here, to be around him, to learn the game from him. I can't imagine a better guy, a better mentor to have in the game of golf on the golf course and off the golf course. He's been kind of the mother hen for all of us down here and he'd really do anything for any one of us, so he's been great.

The Presidents Cup, it would be amazing to play for him. I don't know what I am on the list right now, but he knows I'll be all in if I do make that team and it will just make it more special being able to play for him up at Quail Hollow. I know a lot of Carolina blue will be out there and it would be amazing. Playing the Ryder Cup this past year just gives me even more incentive to keep making those teams because it's truly an unbelievable experience.

Q. From where I'm sitting it's been almost two years since you've been back and having a lot of success. At this point is it in your personality to take time to appreciate that? Are you kind of like a move forward type guy? What do you think about that now that you've had these two really successful seasons?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, I'm definitely a move forward type guy. I'm never really satisfied.

It's great to appreciate, I love being able to obviously play on the Ryder Cup and get recognized for some good play, playing a tournament that's the pinnacle of our sport, playing for your country and playing for Steve Stricker. That was all awesome that I got to experience it, but it makes me want to keep going and keep getting better and try to make those teams for the next 10 or 15 years. That's been a goal of mine. And once you have a taste of it, you just want more of it.

I'm working harder now than ever and I'm going to keep working hard and keep getting better. That's the beauty about this game, there's stuff you can always work on and always get better at and I'm definitely one that always focuses on what's in front of me and how to get better.

Q. Are you at all superstitious, like if I take time to appreciate it or be complacent, I might lose the thing I have? Like it's important not to do that?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Well, there's definitely time to take off, but I'm under the feeling if you're not working on something, working on getting better, then you're getting worse. Taking too much time to appreciate what you've done in the past is not going to help you do anything going forward.

I always like working. I think this game takes a lot of work to get really good at it, and especially at the level I'm at, to keep moving up is a lot more work and a little bit better golf here or there.

Yeah, it's great to have family and friends congratulate you and say how great a couple years you've had, but it's been awesome. I love being in the moment winning those tournaments. Winning the Ryder Cup, it was awesome to experience that. You've got to put that behind you and keep moving forward.

Q. What's your favorite restaurant here?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Favorite restaurant is probably did Delaney's. I wouldn't say it's the best atmosphere. The bar area is a good atmosphere, but it's hands down the best food on the island.

Q. We're all going to Delaney's tonight now. What's your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Thanksgiving's one of my favorite holidays. I obviously love the food, eat way too much. I love kind of all the southern, the sweet potato casserole, the turnip greens, cornbread, stuff like that. It's some of my favorite food. I can only eat it for a day because I don't want to do anything but take a nap after.

I just love being with the family. It's a great time of year down here on St. Simons, it can be 75 degrees and beautiful like it is right now. It's just great to spend time with the family and

kind of think about the past year and be thankful for what you have and what this crazy year, past couple years has given us. It's one of my favorite holidays.

Q. I just was curious when you said you're always working on things and looking ahead, after you win the QBE Shootout again, what are the things you think you'll work on this offseason to prepare for Sentry?

HARRIS ENGLISH: At this level it's just the little things, the way you practice, the way you prepare, your pre-shot routine, just the little things every day. I think that's how I started getting back is doing the little things well every day, working on the fundamentals of golf that when you're under the gun, you can really rely on and go back to and know that's in the bank when you're on the 18th hole, when you're on the 72nd hole. It's just the little things I've got to get better at that I've got to keep prepping.

I feel like the work I've done the past two years obviously has been great. Justin Parsons has been great, my coach here at Sea Island, but he also keeps me in check, he always keeps me A, grounded, but working on the right stuff. It's easy to let your mind wander in this game and start working on stuff that you're not really supposed to and he always keeps me focused and keeps me working on the right things.

Q. It was funny to listen to Lee Westwood on Sunday at the Ryder Cup because he was basically like, you know, 10 years earlier, 15 years earlier he had been in the exact situation you were in, which is playing a singles match after the bigger match had been clinched. His perspective was like, I just kind of stole one basically from Harris because I knew what that was like and he might not have.

Just curious for your thoughts on that. Do you feel like you ran into sort after wily vet who knew the situation a little better?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, it was tough. Lee's a friend of mine, great guy. It was kind of situated in the match where I think we were walking down 14 or 15 where would we basically had won the Ryder Cup and it definitely -- kind of the wind goes out of your sails if you have all this adrenaline and you're pumped up and I lost it.

I regret that. I wish I would have stayed focused and kept that intensity throughout the whole match, but I dropped a little bit and I didn't play some good golf coming in and Lee played great and yeah, he got me, he got me. But I hope I get that opportunity again, I'm not going to let it slip away like that.

Q. Maybe when you're 48 you'll do that to some 32-year-old?

HARRIS ENGLISH: Yeah, I hope he's the captain next year, I hope he's playing. He's a great guy, a great competitor and he'll represent the European team very well.

AMANDA HERRINGTON: Most important for last, is this the year finally that Georgia gets

over the hump against Alabama?

HARRIS ENGLISH: I think so, I think so, Amanda. Got to stay focused. I think Kirby knows exactly the feeling the team has with being with Alabama for a while. He doesn't let them get too complacent about being No. 1 and they know they've got to challenge every single week and I think they step up to the plate. They haven't had a game where they fall flat and I think that comes from the top. Kirby's got them going and I hope would get to see it this year.

AMANDA HERRINGTON: I hope so, too. Well, go Dawgs and we wish you the best of luck this week at the RSM Classic. Thank you so much for your time.

HARRIS ENGLISH: Appreciate it, Amanda. Thank you.