

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
August 21, 2022



PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON (-16)

Q. Padraig, you won the 2022 Dick's Sporting Goods Open. Walk us through the last round and how this week was.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, it feels good. I played well today. Unusual for me, no drama, no real drama. Normally I create something coming home. I suppose 15, you know, that shot out of the trees was probably important, the up-and-down. Mike could have made birdie, I could have made bogey or worse and could have turned it around there, but outside of that it was pretty solid all day. Got the right breaks at the right time, holed the right putts and played nicely.

Q. You mentioned the greens and liking the course. What did you see that you have so much success out here?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, I really like the greens, greens were awesome. I committed to giving my putts a run all week, which I did and I holed my fair share. Played nicely. The golf course suited me. Yeah, I knew I had to avoid some of the water holes, the par 3s, good to play well and as it turned out, I played them really well barring I had one errant shot that had more to do with distraction rather than a bad swing. I hit it close on the par 3s and probably broke the back of the course by playing those holes well.

Q. You said you were sometimes -- when you were on the course you would be a bundle of nerves. Did you feel any of that today or was it just cool, calm, collected the whole day?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: No, it wouldn't be cool, calm, collected, I'd be stressed. Wouldn't be necessarily nerves, it would be just stress and just trying to keep myself not overthinking things. I have to be very careful about that.

My caddie, that's very much the job he has to do is keep you on an even keel out there, don't get too excited when things are going too well and you don't get down on yourself unnecessarily. So the caddie, you know, I can't overestimate what the caddie does out there. I don't think most people really realize how much work they really have to put in in keeping their player on an even keel.

Q. The driver was acting a little funny for the first few holes would you say?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I don't remember it acting funny.

Q. Well, four out of the first 12 fairways I think you hit?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, but I think I drove it OK to hit those fairways. You're not going to hit a lot of fairways out here with the fairways as firm as they are, and it was very windy. I think I was quite happy with my driving today. Missed one of the -- I hit on the first two -- you know, first couple of par 5s, and I three-putted the second one. I drove it pretty straight, to be honest. A little bit careful maybe on 14 in the rain that I pushed it down the right and same on 18, pushed it down the right to keep away from the water. Certainly wouldn't be a -- you know, my perception was everything was going quite well today. Maybe it looked like it wasn't, but in my head it was going quite well.

Q. The birdie on 9 was a big up-and-down.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: No doubt about it, the birdie on 9, yeah. I hit it -- my tee shot long, true left in a right-to-left wind and I hit a really nice sand wedge shot, it was blind 25 feet. To be honest, I would have been happy making par. Came up and it was a nice looking putt I had and I rolled it in. Yeah, it was hard to see me losing from there, to be honest. That was the pivotal moment. Having three-putted one of the par 5s, that one kind of got it back for me and all of a sudden I'm 3 under through 9, no bogeys, things are going very nicely and the field are going to have to do something special to catch me in that situation.

Q. Does this win now change things for you, maybe skipping Wentworth and coming back?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, I think that's -- yeah, I want to play against the young guys, but, you know, there's quite an attraction to being out here. I'm second in the Schwab Cup and I know Steve's a long way ahead, but numbers are very important that if I skip Wentworth, as I said, I'd probably play two out of those three events in September over here and that would be -- give me a great opportunity to make some inroads. Because Steve is obviously going to keep playing well and win some of his own tournaments coming home, so I've got to double down on what he's doing.

Q. Was that a goal of yours before the season started, doing the Schwab?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, I think that's something you come out here, you're a young guy, you want to win an Order of Merit. The Schwab Cup is it. Yeah, I want to be Player of the Year everywhere I go, so yeah, definitely something I would be focused on and now that I'm in there, definitely something that I'll be looking at for the rest of the season.

Q. How were you able to kind of navigate as the rain came in?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I'd love to play in sunshine all the time and perfect weather, but I know when it gets tougher it's an advantage for me, so I have to -- every day it gets windy, every day it gets windy I have to give it -- actually, the fact it suits me more than the other guys, so turn it into a positive in that sense. But to be honest, at this stage of my career I like

following the sunshine and playing nice weather, but whatever you get you have to put up with.

Q. On Friday you said -- we talked about kind of being in those strong groups, how it helps to kind of see other guys make birdies. Early on with that back and forth with Mike Weir, did that kind of help you playing with a guy who was obviously kind of top of the group as well?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, slightly different on Sunday, you're not exactly wanting your playing partners to run away with birdies, but I was very aware of myself and Mike, that we wanted to both make some birdies. We needed to get to 14 under par, 13, 14, 15 under par and that meant it was a battle between us two and not the field.

It was very important that we didn't slug it out by shooting level par, we were both shooting well under par to get ourselves away from the chasing pack. I said when I was 3 under through nine, birdied 9, I knew that the guys on 9 under and 8 under, that it was going to be tough for them to catch us. Then through the back nine there was a little bit more match play in it, no doubt about it.

Mike hit it in close there on 15 and it certainly was a moment to think for me because I was playing a dangerous shot under the trees and I could make 6, he could make birdie and all of a sudden it could be one shot in. But it was definitely match play for that sort of back nine, no doubt about it. The other guys were too far back.

Q. On Friday you left us with a quote about the tall ships. What do you have for us after Sunday?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: You know, I got a fair share of good breaks today and it's never a burden to carry a bit of good luck.

Q. You mentioned it a bit before about your family being here. Just talk a little bit more about what it meant to win in front of them.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: My kids -- my wife has been to plenty of wins, but my kids have been at some wins but they were only toddlers so they wouldn't know what was going on. This is the first time I've won where they're grown up and can understand it more and experience it more. In that sense it was a little bit emotional. You know, I'm happy that they could share the experience and enjoy it. Hopefully, we'll enjoy it for the next couple of days as well.

Q. Overall, how does this compare? You won three of six consecutive majors. You know, your life, your family, your game, how does this compare to you?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Golf is a very odd sport. It's how you did in your last event is always what you think about, how you played your last round, how you hit your last shot.

Yeah, I've had an incredibly successful career all the way through. This is a new chapter. Every time you tee it up, you want to win that week and it's new, it's different and it's a different battle. I'm never going to change my legacy in golf, even going out and winning another major wouldn't change my legacy in golf, so I'm not going to change that, but I can enjoy the moment. Winning any tournament, test yourself, putting yourself out there and learning is the key.

Q. Can you talk a little about your intensity, how intense you are with your family on hand? Does that help calm things down a little bit, change things?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Oh, no doubt about it having your family. I'm pretty good off the golf course, but coming to a round I would be quite pensive and that, so it's something you've always got to work on. I play much better golf when I'm in a smiley, happy frame of mind than in a thinking, pensive, overthinking, argumentative, those don't work very well for me. I'm a better golfer when I enjoy it rather than when I knuckle down and put my head down and fight.