

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
May 3, 2023

PATRICK CANTLAY



JACK RYAN: We'd like to welcome Patrick Cantlay to the interview room here at the Wells Fargo Championship. Patrick is making his second start at the event and in his first appearance at Quail Hollow since the Presidents Cup.

So, Patrick, if we could just get an opening comment from you on being back here at Quail Hollow.

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, this is a tournament I haven't played a lot of in my career, played last year for the first time. Now that it's a designated event, back here to play and looking forward to it. The course is in great shape.

Q. I think everyone wants to ask you about the guy carrying your bag. What was the process like of talking to Tiger, talking to Joe, talking to Rev, just the whole process of now having Joe LaCava on your bag?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, I've been friend with Fred Couples a long time, he's been in Newport Beach for a number of years now and we've played a lot of golf together, so I've heard a number of great things about Joe. You know, when I reached out to Joe, he said it was possible and ended up working out and I'm really happy about it.

Q. Did you speak to Tiger at all about it?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I haven't spoken to Tiger.

Q. What was the decision process like with Rev? You guys had obviously a ton of success together. Just needing a new voice?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, we accomplished a lot together and I'm really proud of all we accomplished. He's a great friend of mine and we had a lot of good finishes together and a lot of wins. So I'm incredibly grateful to him, just needed a change.

Q. Has anyone from the USGA or R&A reached out to get your opinion on a proposed new golf ball?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yes, yes, they had a representative call me.

Q. And what were your thoughts, if you don't mind sharing them?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, I think it's a bad idea. I don't think that it would help the game.



I think bifurcation's really bad for the game. I think one of the best things about our game is that all the people that play at my home club can play the exact same equipment that I do and that's different than pretty much any other sport.

The fact that I can go play with Dr. Erlbaum at my club who's a 20 handicap and I can give him 28 shots and we can have a match from the same tees, that's fantastic. I wouldn't want to go back and then play different equipment than him or different equipment than the club champ at Virginia who already hits it 15 or 20 yards by me as it is.

Q. I find that you think things through very, very well as opposed to some of your colleagues on the Tour. Have you thought about how, let's say it dials it back 12 percent, whatever the number's going to be, how that would impact your game?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I don't really think much of it. I imagine that the best players are still going to be the best players. If anything, it probably gives more advantage to the guys that hit it far because I can't imagine the tee boxes moving up at Augusta and they only have two sets of tees.

It probably would just separate the guys that hit it farther already even more because there would now be a big -- we live in a world now where most guys that hit it average can get to a lot of the par 5s. If they dialed it back how they're talking about, there's a lot of guys that would no longer get to a number of par 5s out here, but the guys that can get to those par 5s are still -- the guys that get there now with long irons are going to be able to get there with 5-woods or 3-woods. So I think if anything, if they roll it back, the guys that hit it far will get an increased advantage.

Q. I know you've worked with Joe before, but in the small sample size that you have working with him, what do you already see that he can contribute to your game?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, he's just a steady hand on the steering wheel. I know he's been in every moment a caddie could be in and he's just a good guy. So I've enjoyed the limited time that I've spent with him and feel confident that we'll be a good team out there.

Q. Patrick, I'm going out with Gary Young tomorrow morning to sort of get a birdseye view of the pace thing to write something about it. I probably haven't followed it as much as I should. I thought maybe a good question for you would be what is something I should look for tomorrow or something people should know that they don't know about slow play in general or the pace of things?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, I would look at average times that it's taken rounds to finish on Tour going back 10 or 20 years, I think they have pretty good data on that.

You know, I would -- if you really wanted to make guys play faster, you would put the tees up and you would put easier hole locations and the greens would roll at 10 if you really wanted it to, and you hope it never blew more than 10 miles an hour. When you get really tricky days



and the greens are really fast and the hole locations are on lots of slope, it's going to take a longer time to play.

But like I've said before, rounds on Tour have pretty much taken the same amount of time for a number of years now and I don't think they're going to set up the golf course in a way, like I said, to make rounds, you know, go a lot faster.

I talked to Jay Monahan today, he said New Orleans, the golf tournament finished 24 minutes ahead of schedule and they had 24 minutes of dead time after the tournament ended. He said no one was complaining that they finished too early.

Q. I confirmed what you just said yesterday with a rep from the Tour that these times have been pretty steady. If that's the case, why now is it becoming at least in my perception such a huge issue? Why are more people talking about it?

PATRICK CANTLAY: That's a good question. I'm not really sure. Maybe shorter attention spans.

Q. Patrick, just to keep it on the slow play, do you think you've been unfairly criticized over the weeks and have you kind of seen some of the reaction on social media and what that's all been like?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I don't worry if I'm unfairly criticized. It's a similar question for do you feel you're underrated or not talked about, which I've gotten before. I don't try to pay too much attention to that, I just try to shoot the lowest scores I possibly can. Like I said before, I don't spend any time on social media so I haven't seen any of it.

Q. Coming back here from the Presidents Cup, is there anything that you learned here that you're going to be able to take out here this week? I know it's different from a team format to a 72-hole golf tournament, but is there anything you took away from that week that's going to help you out here this week?

PATRICK CANTLAY: The Presidents Cup's setup was a lot different, no overseed and it was a different time of year. The golf course was playing a lot firmer for Presidents Cup and then it being match play made it a little different, so not so much. It's actually a lot more similar to when I played the Wells Fargo for the first time last year.

Q. Your record in big PGA TOUR events is very, very good. It's like this, the Playoffs, it's better than your record in the major championships. Have you thought about why that might be?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Not much. I tend to think that that will even itself out over time and if I just keep applying the same game plan, I should have better results.

Q. A small sample size type of thing?



PATRICK CANTLAY: Could be. Yeah, it wouldn't surprise me if I had a number of good finishes in majors going forward, so we'll see.

Q. Patrick, I'm wondering if you have a primary swing thought and if you do, what is it?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I think a lot about like rhythm or sequence but trying to get all the parts of my swing moving at the right time. A lot of times for me that's more time at the top of the golf swing.

Q. And lastly, with May being Mental Health Awareness month, I'm just wondering if you've noticed any connection between your mental health, mental wellness and the success you find on the golf course and if there's anything that you do at home or off the golf course that kind of helps to flex that muscle?

PATRICK CANTLAY: To be honest, I don't think much about it.

JACK RYAN: We'll finish up there. Thank you very much for your time, Patrick, and best of luck this week.

PATRICK CANTLAY: Thank you.

