

MEMORIAL HEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP
Presented by LRS

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
July 2, 2023

PAUL BARJON (-26)



Q. Paul, back in the winner's circle. Your emotions right now?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, I mean, it was a long day obviously, we had to stop a couple times. I thought it was never going to end. Yeah, did it. I didn't hit it as good on the last nine holes, and the putts that were getting in on the front, I think I used them all so I didn't make really any putts on the back nine, but played overall pretty solid.

Q. I know you usually try to avoid looking at the score, knowing where you are. How difficult was that today?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, they're kind of right in your face. I missed a green on 17 on the right and walking back to my ball I was like, oh, now I know I guess two-shot lead. I knew I had a few shots lead on the two guys I played with, but I didn't really know. As expected, someone went low today, I could see that happening. I just made enough birdies, I guess, and just a few bogeys.

Q. Can you take us through the 18th hole here, especially the second shot that hit the pin?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, 18th hole, great tee shot and then pretty good 9-iron. I was aiming a little left of that and went straight at the pin. I've hit the pin a couple times in my career and never really works out, so my caddie and I always try to aim just a little on the side. Not that you hit it exactly where you want to, but you never know.

When I saw it hitting the pin, I was glad it didn't go in the water, so that's really all I was happy about.

Q. You talked a little bit this week about recently not being overly happy with how you're playing, then the missed cut U.S. Open on the final hole. How much of a relief or weight off your back does it feel knowing that you closed this out?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, the way I played this year, I was like, man, you get these young kids coming in. I'm 30, so I guess I'm basically eight to 10 years older than them. They come out here and they win right away. Yeah, I was glad to see I could still do it and give myself a chance to go back on the PGA TOUR.



Q. That second shot, how terrified were you that was going to go in the water there?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, I saw it coming, I was like, well, maybe it went in. I saw it kind of rolling back towards the front of the green. Thankfully, it didn't hit the pin too hard. It was a good spot to be. Now you see it over here, I don't know if I really want that downhill 20-footer, but yeah, no, it was a good spot to end. About seven paces on the fringe, so fairly easy two-putt from there.

Q. Have you seen any -- this kind of weather, the smoke to start the week and then to the tornado warning, have you experienced anything like that just in an entire week?

PAUL BARJON: No, I think that's pretty unique. I don't think any players have experienced that. The smoke, we've experienced it in the past whether it's up in Canada or on the west coast. Yeah, the tornado warning, I think everybody was a little worried on I don't know if it was Thursday or Friday, the days are kind of all mixed up.

Yeah, it was definitely a different style week where it took a while, but we played all four rounds, so that was great.

Q. What's it like, 27 under if I remember right?

PAUL BARJON: Twenty-six, yeah.

Q. Twenty-six under, one stroke off the tournament record, always a historically low tournament. What's it like to kind of keep the sprint, keep filling up birdies?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, my caddie and I kind of looked at previous scores before the week and we knew that you had to make quite a few birdies out here. Tried to avoid bogeys as much as possible and I think we did that, we have only three this week. I think that was the key. Everybody's making a lot of birdies, but it's how many bogeys can you avoid really.

Q. Paul, earlier when we were talking you got a little emotional talking about the shift that you see in your game. Why does that inspire a little emotion in you?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, just I was talking to my wife last week after Oklahoma, we drove back home and I was like I don't know if I still got it, like I never play four rounds good in a row. Well, never. I've done it in the past, but the last -- this year I've played three good rounds and then Saturday seems to be a little kind of shaky. No, it was great to play all four rounds pretty solid.

Yeah, that's golf. You always have that in golf. You miss the cut, you hit a drive out of bounds. "oh, can I not hit a drive on the fairway anymore" kind of thing, or you don't make any putts.

I think it's just the game of golf, like the doubt kind of sneaks in every week basically.



Q. How much self-belief then does it take to keep teeing it up every single weekend hoping that your best stuff is around the corner?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, I think we all do that out here, you see it all the time. Guys miss the cut the week before and next thing you know, they win. Or they miss a bunch of cuts in a row and then they make it happen.

I feel like every week's a new week, 156 guys have a chance to win, so might as well be that guy.

Yeah, it's just try to work hard and make it happen if you can. But again, you could play very well and shoot 24 under and lose by 1, or 25 in that case from Jackson.

Yeah, it's just golf. As I said yesterday, you've got to play great and you've got to be a little lucky, too. I think I have this week, a few putts were kind of burning edges and they ended up going in. Some weeks is just lip-outs after lip-outs, so you've got to get a little lucky.

Q. What does this win mean to you?

PAUL BARJON: It's great. I mean, last time I was in the lead was at the American Express on the PGA TOUR and I shot 1 over the last round, so that was kind of frustrating obviously.

But it's a lot of fun to be in the hunt. It's not very great sleep on Saturday night knowing you've got a chance to win because you know you're thinking about what if I win, what if I don't win, all this kind of stuff.

I told my caddie at the beginning of the day, I was like, well, that's what we practice for. Like you don't want to come in the day five, six shots behind, you want to be ahead and try to get the trophy.

Q. Did you have power over the night?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, yeah, I've got some great hosts this week and we got pretty lucky. It's about two miles from here and we got power, we got water, we got food. I've been one of the lucky ones.

Q. Did you make a phone call after you won?

PAUL BARJON: Yeah, I talked to my wife and she was bawling out obviously, which made me a little emotional, for sure. Our daughter's almost three months, so she doesn't really know what's going on so obviously she's not crying at all. She does cry a lot, but not for that.

No, it was great. I can't wait to see them tomorrow.



Q. How are you going to celebrate tonight?

PAUL BARJON: Tonight, just a few beers. We've got to drive to St. Louis tomorrow morning, so we've got to kind of go easy. I've had some rough mornings every now and again if you go a little too hard. We've got to drive an hour and a half tomorrow morning, so we'll celebrate properly, but try to not go too hard.

Q. How good's it going to be to get back with the family?

PAUL BARJON: Oh, it's going to be great. Obviously I feel like when you win, you want to keep going and play again, but when I won in Huntsville, I went to Nashville the week after and I feel like that's hard to back it up and play good because you're tired, you've got to do a bunch of interviews and such things, which is great but it's hard. So I think a week off is going to be pretty great.

Yeah, I'm going to go out and go back home tomorrow, not do a whole lot. Then Tuesday we're going to have a few steaks with my sponsor. And yeah, I've got a few friends coming over and we're going to grill basically all I have in the freezer, so it will be fun.

Q. What do you think this win means for your family?

PAUL BARJON: I think it's great, it's great. I mean, you always want to win for yourself obviously, but my family, my friends at home, they're always supportive even when I play crappy, which I have quite a bit in the past, in the past year or so. Yeah, it was great to have one opportunity this year and make it happen because that's always something is you could play great, as I said, finish 25 under, have a great week and not win. So it was nice to make it happen because I think 25 under at the beginning of the week, I would have said yeah, that's great playing, but maybe you don't win.

Yeah, I think my family in France and in Australia, I think they're quite pumped. With the time change, I don't know if they were watching. I'm sure they are, I'm sure they woke up early and watched, but I think they're probably more excited than I am.

