

**ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES**  
**March 23, 2024**



**PADRAIG HARRINGTON ( -12)**

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**Q. Well, Paddy, 4 under in the last four holes, that's got to make dinner taste a little bit better tonight. Just a few comments about today.**

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON:** Yeah, the first 14 holes it was the opposite of yesterday, I seemed to play nicely and not score very well, but then those last four holes make up for it. And I was pushing hard over the last four holes. We don't know what we're going to get tomorrow, it was important to be tying the lead by the end of the day if not leading. I think I got my mindset a bit, maybe making a bogey at 14 kind of kicked it off a little bit and it was a nice way to finish. Really, the putt at 16, that didn't go in as well, so it was -- but as I said, I finished strong yesterday, again today. A nice -- doesn't always happen that way, but it's nice when it does.

**Q. Pretty substantial amount of rain this morning. Did the course play much longer?**

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON:** You know what, it played great for me, I've got to say. Yeah, it was longer in places, but I was able to use my length quite a bit on a few holes. Yeah, I preferred it today the way it was. Now, I've liked it every other day, but I think it played into my hands today, yes.

**Q. Is that because of the wind?**

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON:** A little bit with the wind and that, yeah. There's a combination of two things. I felt that wherever that each hole that came along, the bunker was at the right distance that I could carry it. Yeah, it was a nice driving -- I had a nice driving day in particular. Yeah, I think the setup was perfect. I always prefer when the courses are a little softer off the tee, it makes it longer for everybody else and I can open up my shoulders a bit more.

**Q. He was laughing about the course was ripe for Irish players, the weather was just perfect for you, he said.**

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON:** Yeah, but I'm -- 28 years as a pro, I've gone soft. I like sunny weather. I don't mind the wind, I like the challenge of the wind. I'm here to enjoy myself, that's what the Champions Tour is about, nice sunny weather. I don't mind testing conditions, but nobody likes playing in the rain, it just makes it hard. You have to work hard, buckle down and get things -- yeah, it's just a lot of work when it's raining. While I'm OK in the rain, I have my processes, I definitely prefer when I'm out on the Champions Tour playing in nice weather.



**Q. Can you talk about your second shot on 18 as well as the up and down?**

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON:** Yeah, you know, I think it's the first time I've ever been -- normally can't carry the bunker on the right and so you have to hit up the left. Today I could have hit it on the fairway right and I actually hit it left, I'm surprised. It was in the rough, I think we had 229, so 4-iron trying to hold it up. I hit a lovely shot, I thought it was going to pitch maybe another five yards up the green, and it does pitch in that front corner. Didn't have -- and I had a mud ball actually so I couldn't get any spin out of the bunker. It was not a shot I like playing, but it was effective. Maybe wasn't that pretty. Certainly I was very focused on trying to get that putt, I felt with the weather forecast you'd like to go in with the lead.

**Q. Does the strategy change now? Obviously seems like the first two days you've been pressing the pedal, getting ahead, and now you're on the top of the leaderboard.**

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON:** No, I thought Thongchai played very well today. I didn't think he made any mistakes, did everything well. I would expect him to go out and play well tomorrow. I don't think you're going to go out there and -- I probably -- I'm going to have to go forward. You know, one-shot lead over Thongchai is not enough, he seems to be playing very nicely. Yeah, in my head I'm trying to think of 5, 6 under par would take the rest of the field out and would put a lot of work on Thongchai to keep up with that.

**Q. Do you look at a number before you start?**

**PADRAIG HARRINGTON:** No, no, I just play each shot as it comes. I generally will be aware -- if I'm in the lead, I'm always trying to take the field out of play. So like for myself and Thongchai tomorrow, I'd love the two of us to play the front nine 4 under par, both of us, because then it's between me and him for the last nine holes and the field has got too much to do. That's my attitude. Hopefully both of us play well, we get going. The last thing I want to do tomorrow is shoot level par and give 8, 9 unders, even 7 unders a chance of competing. Hopefully both of us play well and we sort it out over those last four holes.

