

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

ROUND 2 QUOTES

June 22, 2024



PADRAIG HARRINGTON (-11)

Q. Paddy, that finish was kind of like a mini back nine from last year revisited, birdieing the last three to get to 7-under 65. Just a few comments on, with everything having gone on the last few weeks, how good today felt.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, both rounds this week I finished strong. It's been a bit of a surprise. I was a little frustrated probably through nine holes today. My playing partners were going so low, I wasn't holing the putts. Then I don't know if I was patient or things happened to go my way, but it was really nice to come home in 5 under.

This is one of those -- there's obviously a big bunch of people up on the leaderboard, but sometimes you're three or four shots off the lead, you have a chance going into Sunday, but with so many people on the leaderboard, you really want to be very tightly up there. You want to be if not in the lead, close enough. One of those guys is going to go low tomorrow, so hopefully it will be me.

Q. You certainly had so much going on with everything the past couple of weeks. Have you had a few minutes to kind of sit down, catch your breath and kind of assess everything and then realize, I've got to get back to work?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, no, I had a good week off. You know, I've come into this week refreshed, but actually not really as focused as I would like to with my game. Just not game ready. I was poor at times yesterday, I was very poor in the practice rounds and I got gradually better each day. It would be nice if I got better tomorrow, but that doesn't necessarily work like that. It's obviously going to be a little bit harder tomorrow when you're trying harder. We wait and see. I know what I need to do, I don't know if I'll be able to do it. We'll just have to wait until tomorrow and see what happens.

Q. Do you have a number in mind?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: No, no. It's just all about trying to get my head in the game. You know, as I said, I got better each day, but it's still -- I'm a really, really poor practicer when I'm off, I'm just terrible. I need to be playing tournament rounds, tournament golf. I didn't set foot on the golf course, I didn't hit a shot on course for three weeks and it showed. It showed really badly on Wednesday and Thursday. It's got better each day as -- even Friday I was pretty ropery with a few shots. Certainly was a little better today, but it's not -- mentally, I'm not where I should be. I said it, it's a common fault of my own, I'm a lazy practicer. You know, I see some good stuff. I need to get better at it and hopefully it won't cost me



tomorrow.

Q. Would that be a reevaluation of your schedule maybe?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: No, it's not schedule. It's just when I do take time off, I don't really spend it on the golf course. I need to spend my practice time on the course rather than on the range. But I've done this for 20 years, I just can't seem to change myself. It's very hard.

As I said, hopefully -- it certainly caught me out one or two times this week. Hopefully -- I know it's going to catch me out tomorrow at some stage, but hopefully it won't do too much damage.

Q. (Inaudible) is a word you use, frustration. Is that because of the two par 5s on the front nine you didn't take advantage of?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I just think with the nice conditions we have, it's ideal out there for scoring. You're seeing other people score, you're seeing the lead go forward so much that you're -- you know, you want to make some birdies. I got off to a good start, I'm thinking, oh, yeah, keep going. There's a lot of pressure on you to make some putts and shoot low. As I said, if you're not shooting I think 5 under, I would have gone backwards with 5 under today. That puts a lot of pressure on you out there to hole putts and make birdies. It can get quite frustrating. You have to manage it. I got lucky today, I came home very strong, birdied the last three holes, but I can't say that happened because I'm -- well, I was doing my own thing. I know I was a little frustrated, but I was trying to do my own thing out there, so it turned nicely. Maybe I was a bit more patient than I thought I was.

Q. How do you -- you finished strong, two championships here, but you talk about locking in mentally. How much does that help you and how do you lock in mentally?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I'll tell you how you lock in mentally, you practice it. That's how you do it. It's not a light switch that you can just turn around and switch it on and all of a sudden you've got only good thoughts. I think the more you practice it, the better you get at it. I'm lucky enough that when I'm under pressure, I tend to get better at it, but I also know that if I work at it, practice it, I get better at it, too. That's the solution. Don't just think you can turn up on the first tee and quiet your mind if you spent an hour on the range with all sorts of complications running through your head.

