

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

ROUND 3 QUOTES

June 23, 2024



PADRAIG HARRINGTON (-15)

Q. Paddy, just a few opening comments on the three-peat.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, it's very exciting. Coming into the week people say, oh, are you going to do a three-peat, and it's a lot easier to say it than do it. So yeah, I was trying to keep my expectations dab even though I do like the golf course. I know it suits me.

I think it was managing other people's expectations and trying to keep myself in a nice place. I probably didn't play as well on Tuesday and Wednesday, or Wednesday and Thursday as I would have wanted it, but I got gradually better as the tournament went on. Certainly today in a windier day it was a tricky day to be out in the last group. I certainly got a few good breaks. A few things went against me, but I got a few good breaks as well to even out the day. It was just my day.

Q. I hate to ask you to say it again, but it was such a good comment about the communities in which the Champions Tour plays.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, this is what the Champions Tour is all about. When we come to venues like this, Broome County, old PGA TOUR stops dare I say it being outgrown or forgotten about, they really come out for the Champions Tour. They love their golf, they come out, they have a great sponsor in Dick's. The whole community, the fans come out and we love being here. It's great for us as players, we get to relive our past glories, hit shots under pressure, under stress, some good, some bad, so it's really this is a perfect Champions Tour event. You have the atmosphere, you feel like you're a kid back in the old days.

Q. You stuck one on 15 right at the pin, you birdie that one. Then 16 and 17 both got a little bit hairy coming in the rough. What was your mindset going into those holes?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, I was really trying to make one more birdie. I knew I had a one-shot lead, but if I could get it to two shots, I felt that's comfortable. I was going after it on 16 and we were thinking 3-wood. Then we said, well, get driver to the back of the green. And obviously I pitched on hardpan rather than the soft part, went long and I was in -- I wasn't in the worst place in the world, but it was awkward when you're leading the tournament. I think if I was one shot back I would have given that a much better effort to get that up and down, but I was more concerned about not taking 5. And 17 was a little lapse in concentration, I was just drawing it into the pin and I changed my target at the last moment and snatched that a bit.



I haven't been chipping well, but when the pressure was on, I just got into it, got my focus right. The shot was on and I played it as well as I could. The putt was tricky because it broke and then it straightened out. And of course it did what it was expected to do, but you're always worried that it's going to keep breaking because that's happened many a time.

Those are the sort of breaks you get when you win tournaments. Those are the good things that happen. The week you don't win that would have kept on breaking and missed on the right lip and bemoaned your luck. The important thing is I was in the right place to make all the -- make the most of my luck.

Q. You talked about it each time you've won here, the family aspect, having your family here. Just talk about how special this tournament has become for you.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: It really is. It was the first tournament that I won that my kids were old enough to appreciate it. It's been a bit of -- that was a big, we like to upgrade our saver, phone saver, the pictures on our phone now for the third year, but I think the original one is still on it.

Yeah, look, it's exciting when you can win with your family here. They do a good job during the week because it's all about managing expectations and emotions. Then you have the excitement if you do get across the line and to be able to enjoy it now this evening with my family and kids is probably not (inaudible) really in the game.

Q. Three straight wins here at En-Joie Golf Club. What about this particular golf course suits you so well for your game?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I grew up on poa annua greens, I grew up on this type of grass. Yeah, I like tree-lined courses. I know most people think it's all links golf in Ireland, but I think I prefer the tree-lined courses. This suits my eye, everything about it. There's four par 5s and a drivable par 4 so that kind of plays into my game as well. I think the course suits me. You still have to get it done when it's like that, but it definitely suits my eye and it's a course I look forward to playing all the time.

Q. With the wind really picking up on the back nine, just how hard was that to navigate out there, especially with the narrow fairways?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, it funneled down those fairways, that was the awkward thing. It should have been across all the time but sometimes it went straight down or straight into just because it would follow down the hole.

Like I didn't birdie 12, I had 195 yards to the flag and I hit 8-iron thinking, well, I can't get to the back of the green and I went over the green. I couldn't believe it played that much downwind, it should have been off the left. But as I said, it funneled a bit, it made it difficult, it made it awkward.



And I chipped it in the water on 10, got a bit more wind. Then when I was standing on the second shot on 15, like you don't want to go long. Like I hit a lovely shot but my heart was in my mouth as it was flying because I wasn't sure, you know, after 10 I wasn't sure whether it was going to come up a little bit short and spin back. Then you're obviously worried that it will bounce over the green, so that was probably -- obviously that was the moment that won the tournament for me, but it was definitely the most -- my heart was in my mouth, the most nerve wracking shot as the ball was in the air of the day.

