

ROUND 3 PRESS CONFERENCE
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PADRAIG HARRINGTON (-17)



Q. Congratulations. First of all, talk me through what it means to win this championship, the first of its kind in Arkansas.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, it's been great here in Arkansas. My first time here in Little Rock. Didn't know what to expect, but it's been a fabulous week. Golf course, Pleasant Valley has been in great condition, really exciting course. I don't think I could ask for any more, to be honest. Played nicely, got a few breaks along the way and closed it out. Very pleased, indeed.

Q. What were you saying about (inaudible) seems like you and Alker (inaudible) speed is different, 10 times different than everyone else (inaudible)?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah. Look, I've tried to keep my speed up to compete with the young guys, so it's an advantage when I come out here, for sure. I can get a fair clip -- this is actually one of the first times I can actually slow myself down on that back nine because I got out of sorts. So yeah, unusual for me, but I was trying to swing easy at the end, just keeping it tidy. But that's because when you're in contention, you've got a little bit more adrenaline. Yeah, it's nice to have that advantage, it's nice, I know I can get at a few more pins than other guys, but you've still got to hole the putts and hit the shots.

Q. I wanted to ask about 18. You had a little bit of a lead, a little bit of leeway there, but felt like you were still attacking.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, myself and my caddie looked at it, we knew there was one player who could make an eagle to catch me if I made par. It would have been conservative to play it for a par, but I just knew if I hit a good drive, that's the end of the hole. One shot, if I hit a good drive down the fairway, it's an easy -- it's an easy enough hole.

I think if I laid up off the tee I was kind of in no-man's land and I still would have had to make a good two-putt even if I played it well from there. Look, sometimes you've just got to take your chance when you get it. Could have worked out the other way, but I was more focused on, look, if I hit the shots, it takes everybody else out of play.

Q. Yardage on 2, club you hit.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: It was 1 -- from memory, 162 yards and we played it four yards down, so 158 yards. I hit 9-iron with in out of the left and I hit a lovely 9-iron just right at the pin with a draw. Pitched just right of it and spun back a couple of inches.

As I said, we have a pool on the Tour for hole-in-ones, so at that moment I was nearly more excited about the pool than I was about my tournament. It was an important birdie, for sure, when it came to the last couple holes. It was nice to have that one in the bank.

Q. What was your yardage on 18?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: No. 18, I had 213 yards. So I think I was tempted to go with a 6-iron with a draw, and maybe if I was trying to make eagle I think I would have. But instead we went to a three-quarter 5-iron with a cut just knowing that if I pulled it, I was going to cover the water on the left for sure. That gave us the most options. Yeah, three-quarter 5-iron up the middle of the green was the play rather than trying to hit a 6-iron over the water.

Q. (No microphone.)

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Tapping in on 18 to win. I have enjoyed the week here, it's been very good. I had good fun in the pro-ams. Had a few days off in Little Rock at the start of the week, Monday, Tuesday. We've been dining out most nights. Yeah, the whole week has been great, but it can't beat winning a tournament. Hitting the shots on 18. Yeah, maybe hitting the drive down 18 was my favorite moment because I think I didn't allow myself the luxury of believing I won, but that really guaranteed the win, so tee shot on 18.

Q. I wanted to ask about these last three holes. It's kind of a unique setup where you can hear everything and see everything as you're going along. What's it like on those last three holes?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, they're intimidating holes. No. 16 is a very small green and I think I had 173 yards in there today off a good tee shot. It's a big, tough hole. You've got to hit a good tee shot and you've got to hit a great second shot. So yeah, very intimidating hole.

No. 17, same again, 17's actually a good hole because if you hit a good shot, you can make a birdie on it because it kind of gathers into the pin. But again, you've got water, you've got trouble up there.

And 18 is a perfect finishing hole. If you're chasing, you can make an eagle, but there's a lot of water. We've seen a lot of people in that water left. Yeah, it's all drama for those three holes, no doubt about it.

Q. This win puts you -- you're headed to Phoenix in two weeks. How does that give you momentum going into the championship?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I'm told I'm up to fourth, so I'm not sure of the exact numbers. I will have a look. Hopefully a win will be good enough and hopefully, I'm not quite sure how far I'm behind, but you want the best situation is that if you win and really don't know if

second place is good enough for anybody else, I just don't know the numbers yet.

As regards my own game, I like the golf course. So really I have a few days off beforehand, basically just don't try and do anything different, just do the same stuff over. I do like the golf course. You still need to get the breaks and everything when you turn up. First thing is look after yourself, then hopefully things go to plan and get yourself in contention. Then on Sunday, as I said, you're really never 100 percent sure how it's going to go, so if you're in there, you've got a shout.

Q. (No microphone.)

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: It was very impressive. The crowds here and the atmosphere, it does help 16, 17, 18 being around the lake, but the weather's been fabulous, Friday and Sunday were great. Big crowds. I think it would have been one of the biggest crowds we would have seen on a Friday of a Champions Tour event. Then obviously that sort of amphitheater around 18 was a great way to finish with all the people up on the hill looking down from the clubhouse. A nice way for me to finish off a championship when there's that many people there, makes it all the more exciting.