

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES

October 27, 2024

PADRAIG HARRINGTON (-17)



Q. Paddy, you've won 41 times globally on both tours. When you were growing up, did you think that amount was ever --

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: No, no. My intention when I was a young guy was to play amateur golf. I only turned pro because I was beating the guys who were turning pro.

But I've never looked back. I've run with that ball and golf has been very good for me. It doesn't get old though winning, I've got to say. You still feel anxious and nervous.

This is the great thing about the Champions Tour. As you said, I've won 41 times, but I'm reliving my glories here, I'm reliving my past wins. There was an unbelievable crowd here today, there was a great atmosphere. Last couple of holes with all the water was a lot of trepidation, a lot of excitement with it. Hitting those shots wasn't just about winning this tournament, it was about kind of reliving the past glories. I'm not saying validating past glories, but certainly reliving it. Hey, I did this once and I was pretty good at it and I'm not too bad at it now.

Q. We talked earlier in the week that you would have to win here and possibly in Phoenix to get to the Schwab Cup. What's your thoughts on that now?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I haven't done the maths, but I'm told I'm up to fourth. I'm not sure how much I'm behind. Hopefully I'm close enough that a win would take care of it and not a win and second sort of thing.

Look, you want to be in the Charles Schwab Cup with a chance, you want to be there the last week that if you do play well, and look, there's nothing taken for granted out here. You've got to shoot -- I say this, in these three rounds it's 17 under par this week, at least 15 most weeks, so you've got to hole the putts, you've got to get the breaks.

OK, 72 holes, I prefer that, but you've still got to get the breaks and play well. It will be a long week and plenty of more pressure, but that's why we play this game.

Q. What will a win there mean to you, to win the Charles Schwab Cup?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, I'm getting a bit older, so I am aware that, you know, it's not going to get easier to win the Schwab Cup. There's more players coming on, new players. Yeah, if I have a chance, I'll certainly be anxious to take my chance.

Q. This week, like you talked about earlier, 15 was the number that you knew was

reachable after Friday, but did it put any extra pressure on yourself after the start you got off to seeing everybody else go low?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, that's always the case though on the Champions Tour. You go out there and the first couple holes maybe you're treading water and you look up at the leaderboard and there's somebody 5, 6 under par. Yeah, you've just got to get with it, you know you're going to have to make some birdies. It's really tough if you shoot level par the first day, it's nearly the end of the week for you. You've got to make those birdies, get going, get going quickly.

I think that was the hardest I think when I started out on the Champions Tour, I couldn't believe the pace it goes at. You've really got to get going quickly or else you'll be left behind.

Q. Now, I understand on the second hole you almost won a much bigger prize?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I hit 9-iron today and it spun back to about I'd say two inches but very close, maybe even less than two inches, nearly on the lip. Of course out here on the Tour we have a pool for hole-in-ones, everybody puts a hundred dollars in, everybody wants to put a hundred dollars in. If you hole out, you get to collect. Most weeks you're paying out, but the day I hole out will be very sweet.

Q. Hall of Fame this year, three wins this year, do you kind of pinch yourself ever?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Oh, yeah, the Champions Tour has been brilliant. I never could have envisioned what it's really like out here.

You're coming out here, you're playing with your peers, you're playing in front of great crowds, it gets exciting, you've got a great chance to get yourself in contention. As I said, the whole of being in contention and trying to hit the shots under pressure, it's like you're back as a young lad, it's like you're back in the good old days. It is very much out here on the Champions Tour, you're reliving the past glories, you're hitting those shots and you feel -- like what other sport gives you that opportunity to feel like a star again.

Q. One of the things you talked about was this might be the hardest tour to keep your card on. So when you're out here in this event fighting to get to 36, seeing guys like Cam Percy or Jason Caron, who's a club pro, what does that speak to the pressure they're under when they're fighting to get that card?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, I was playing with Rodney Pampling and he dropped outside the 36. He was 36 going out, dropped outside and then he birdied the last two to get in.

Yeah, we're aware of that, very much so. Luckily, a few of those guys were on the leaderboard today. It actually makes -- having that pressure of trying to keep your card means that they probably ain't going to win the tournament because they're going out there

trying not to mess up rather than going out there trying to go for it. It made it harder for them in the tournament, better for me.

I think there's no pressure in sport like trying to keep your card, like trying to -- it's a weird thing in golf, trying to make cuts and trying to keep your card are two of the things that nobody ever seems to get used to and nobody ever likes.

Q. And you talked about winning the Schwab Cup. You've won at Phoenix Country Club before, played well the last year. Now that you have this position in fourth, what's your mindset going into that event?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: You know, I just try and keep doing what I'm doing this week, keep going with that. Not trying introduce anything new, just play the way I played. As I said, the golf course itself suits me, so hopefully I get a few breaks during the week, get myself in contention. And 72 holes I'm happy about, I like the extra rounds. Yeah, we're excited. There's so many good players, you can't take anything for granted. You do need to have a big week.