

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
February 15, 2025



PATRICK RODGERS (-8)

Q. Patrick, let's get the difficult question out of the way first. I know you're disappointed to make bogey on the final hole. You did mitigate the damage. What happened with the club change? Did you go to a longer club and try to finesse something in with your third shot?

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, so I had 91 yards just there in the first cut. Usually that's a perfect little three-quarter lob wedge for me with no wind and no circumstances.

At first we were talking about sand wedge, trying to fly it maybe eight or nine behind it. Even with the moisture, the first cut can come out a little spinny this week, so my concern was I was going to fly it right in the middle of the slope and it was going to chew back off the front.

I felt like I executed a decent shot, but what happened was it came out just a little slower with the moisture so my gap wedge, little like 95, 100 yard shot just came out really slow. Felt like I executed OK. Obviously it looked silly when it ends up in the water, but I'm proud of the way I got it up and in.

Q. Let's talk about some of the good stuff, start with putting. It hasn't been a great season for you thus far on the greens, but right now you're third in strokes gained putting; where everyone was struggling just to make pars, you found birdies out there today.

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, I played awesome today, it was great. It's rare to have a pretty clean day out at Torrey Pines just especially the length of the golf course, the rough and then playing the back nine into the breeze. That finishing stretch is no joke. So yeah, definitely proud of the round that I put together.

In reference to on the greens, it's been a difficult start to the year. I tried to implement a few changes in my putting to improve at the start of the year and I didn't like the direction that I was headed, so I kind of got back to the way that I have always putted. I've always been historically a really good putter.

Q. When you play a golf course as tough as this is playing this week, you've got to find a way to turn five into four. Your four for four out of the bunkers this week, you're 14 of 17 scrambling. Have to be really proud of that, aren't you?

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, for sure, especially when I started making a few looser swings they're coming in on some of the difficult holes. I made a bad iron swing into 15 but left it in an OK spot and got up and down, and a really good chip there on 16. I was able to kind of

manage when I was out of position around the greens. A golf course this difficult, you're going to expect to be out of position at some point during the day.

Q. You won't remember this, and you shouldn't, but several years ago when I was talking to you in Napa, your career had just really begun. I asked if you were frustrated that several of your contemporaries had won while you hadn't. You told me you're not here to win a tournament, you're here to win lots of tournaments over several years. I've really admired that patience and composure. Do you still have that in your thoughts about the final round?

PATRICK RODGERS: I mean, it's clearly something I've battled in my career. It's the thing that whenever my name is mentioned, that's the first thing that everybody says professionally so it's something that I have to deal with. I think I've struggled with it for a long time, but I feel like I'm viewing my career from a different vantage point now and I'm excited about the opportunity to cross that finish line tomorrow.

Q. What's the vantage point?

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, instead of playing with a lot of expectation, I need to play to achieve. That's what I've always set out to do, and it kind of felt like early in my career with the amateur resume that I had, I felt like there was a lot expected of myself internally and it was something where when immediate success, immediate wins didn't come straight away, it was kind of fighting who I saw myself to be, to be honest with you.

So instead of playing with a monkey on your back that gets bigger and bigger over time when it doesn't happen, I'm trying to play from a perspective that feels fresh and new and exciting and full of opportunity because that's what this game is, and I have a great one tomorrow.

Q. I don't know how to follow that, but I did want to ask you about your shots on 12 and 13, which were pretty good.

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, this golf course is really hard, it's just really hard and you feel like you get through a hard stretch and then the holes coming up are full of more hard shots.

Yeah, off the 12th tee you're just happy that you have a crack at the green. I hit an awesome 4-iron in there and rolled in a putt nice and aggressive, which I liked. And to be able to get home there on 13 and still left with a difficult two-putt on these slopey greens, that felt like I was kind of on the front foot of my round after that, which was nice.

Q. Did you come to this different perspective on your own or sports psychologist or how did this work as far as a path?

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, probably doing the wrong thing a lot is probably -- I'm in my 11th season, which is hard to believe, it's gone by really fast. I still feel like a kid. I don't feel

super removed from my college days, but now I have two kids of my own to look after.

Yeah, I've been in this position a decent amount of times, I've been in this position in contention on this golf course a time or two. It's going through those experiences and not succeeding where you have to reflect and look back and try another way.

Q. Were you hard on yourself those early years?

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, for sure. It kind of felt constrictive in the fact that like there's not a whole lot of leeway, I have to be perfect. I had kind of maybe a little bit of an inflated perspective of how great everyone is around me at. The time most everyone was older, now it's just a collection of all my peers from the time we were kids.

So yeah, it's been an experience of a lot of mental hurdles, but I'm super excited about the opportunity tomorrow. This is what you play for.

Q. I want to ask about your results here because they're so up and down from a T-10, then a couple of cuts. You know, what's your perspective on how you've played here?

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, I would be interested to see other guys, but basically if you're playing well you can shoot a round like I did today and if you're playing not very well you're going to struggle to shoot 75. That's kind of how it's been. If you're putting the ball in the fairway, you feel like you can attack and if you're hacking out of the rough, par is a really difficult score. That's kind of a reflection of my results over the years.

Q. The 18th hole here, you guys had Sunday pin today on Saturday. How have you looked at this 18th hole in the past as far as is it a great finishing hole, a good finishing hole? How have you looked at it personally?

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, I think it's awesome. I have just memories watching the tournament here. I was glued to the TV for almost every round in 2008 when Tiger won the Open here with an extra 18 thrown in there, and obviously I've played here a bunch now.

It's definitely an exciting finishing hole. You can have happen what happened to me today or you can hit a great shot and make a three, it's all part of the excitement.