

PADRAIG HARRINGTON

Q. Paddy, welcome to the Cologuard Classic by Exact Sciences back here in La Paloma. Just overall thoughts on how the week's gone? And then you just finished up a little pro-am round, how's the course looking?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, course is in great shape. Obviously looking forward to the week. Desert golf, which has its own unique issues and problems, but I think we're ready for it. Obviously we had a cold morning this morning and I think that kind of suits for tomorrow. It's going to be a tough day tomorrow and then it's going to warm up on the weekend. Remember, we are on the Champions Tour, so we like that warm weather.

Q. Absolutely. What does this mean to you to play for someone else this week? Obviously we always play for something else, but the impact of what this tournament means?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, look, this is the great thing about the Champions Tour, and I will say about the PGA TOUR as well, we go out there, we're playing golf, we're pretty serious about our golf, we play for fantastic prize funds, but it's nice that we give back. It's nice that there's another reason.

And especially on the Champions Tour, I don't think these events would happen without the charitable aspect. Cologuard obviously -- it's obvious this week what we're here for and we get to represent individuals, survivors.

I played with Lanny today, it was great fun. It was great to see him. It's always nice to see cancer survivors to realize that you can beat it and that, you know -- and they have and they have a great outlook and they're raising awareness for colorectal cancer. It's a mouthful there.

Look, it's nice that it's not just all about the golf and that we're here to do some good as well and to give back to normally local communities but I think the whole community in this case.

Q. New this year is something called Birdies for Survivors, it's going to be on No. 15, which is Survivor Central. So a little extra motivation for you, every birdie you make will be \$1,500 and that goes to a fund to get a patient or survivor here next year to the tournament. Just a little heads up on that.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I'd be really happy if I made three birdies, it would be nice. I tell you what, I'll double it up. If I make a birdie, I'll give \$1,500 on top of what they give.

Q. You've won (inaudible) Irish day tomorrow, how will it affect play?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: You know, we live and hope, Al, that we get up tomorrow and the forecast isn't what it's supposed to be. But look, it should suit me if the conditions are tough, but I don't like it. I'm old now, I'm soft, I like playing in nice sunny weather, nice sunny conditions.

Yeah, I'll put up with it for the round, but I ain't looking forward to it.

Q. What's the worst weather you've ever played in?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I've played in some obviously -- I've practiced and played in conditions that I wouldn't let my dogs out in now. When you're young and naive, you think you're getting something done. It did build up some resilience.

Look, whatever we get tomorrow, I guarantee I've spent half my days playing and practicing in worse conditions at home.

In terms of tournament golf, we don't generally play in really bad stuff. I think probably the first round of -- first round when I won my open in 2008 at Birkdale, I think that was as bad as we got for a round of golf. And maybe the four holes that we played in a really bad shower in Muirfield in 2002, probably the worst weather.

But as I said, as pros we might get a hole or two in bad weather, but generally if it's really bad they pull us in. The bad weather is really for back in our amateur days, they just left us out in those days, play on.

Q. (Inaudible) of Happy Gilmore. We've seen you do that swing with Happy Gilmore driving the ball. Walk me through how that's done.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Look, it's second nature to me, I grew up playing Hurling so I've never had a second thought about doing a Happy Gilmore, running up, hitting it.

I did consider using it in tournament play. I tried to tidy it up a bit. So if you look at my old Happy Gilmore, they are full out 130-mile an hour golf swings. I did try and tidy it up to see if I could maybe use it on the golf course. I could swing faster, but just didn't quite get the strike of a normal shot so it wasn't really worth it.

I haven't done one for ages and I do it straight away.

As I said, there's a great Irish sport, probably the best sport in the world called hurling and it's second nature for us to swing at a ball with a stick, usually with somebody else trying to hit you at the same time. I don't know if it just builds up a natural confidence with it.

And every kid should do it, every kid should be doing Happy Gilmore because it perfects

the right movement in the golf swing, it perfects the right pivot. Everything about it is good for your golf swing. So everybody should try it and do it and their golf swing should be a tidied up version of that.

Q. We know you're a movie buff, I'm sure you saw Happy Gilmore 1. Thoughts on 2 coming out?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I'll watch it, yeah, yeah. Watch it more for the cameos I think more than anything else. Yeah, it should be a bit of fun. Disappointed they didn't ask the best person in the world doing a Happy Gilmore to be in it, but there you go. Maybe I would have shown 'em up.

Q. Obviously playing with you, you were working on your trajectory today. I'm curious if you could talk more about flighting the ball lower and any tips you would have for amateurs to try and flight the ball lower?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, look, this is desert golf and the one thing you don't want to get, especially if there's a bit of wind, if you get the ball in the air, you get outside -- the fairways are OK, then you have the mounds. If you get outside those mounds you could be re-teeing, so you've got to keep the ball down, use those mounds as buffers.

I basically kept the ball down all day. I'm going to hit it as low and hard as I can during the week as long as the fairways stay firm.

I think the key here would be if you want to hit it lower, generally you should reduce maybe -- like in my head I mentally am only using a half backswing, maybe a three-quarter backswing. If you're trying to hit a stinger shot, which is kind of what I'm doing off the tee, a half, three-quarter backswing and maybe a half, three-quarter follow-through as well are two good ideas and thoughts.

Outside of that, I'm not a great one -- I'm sure the ball moves back and I tee it down a little lower, but most of it is mental for me just seeing the trajectory and then shortening my backswing.

Q. You've won I think nine times in three years on this tour. Why do you think you've been able to have so much success out of the gate?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I came in pretty strong. I think if you want to be -- if you want to have a good Champions career, you've got to be competitive on the main tours. When you're 49 years of age, you've got to still be playing, you've got to be out there.

Yeah, it's very important if you want to have a good Champions Tour career that you don't -- it's hard to kind of have a 10-year lull. So if you kind of retire from the young guys at 40, it's hard to come back at 50. You need to keep going.

I would have been and still am competitive with the young guys. It's nice to get out here and have an advantage when you're a little younger than the other guys. I obviously have a distance advantage, but my game is still strong enough.

As I said, I'm still happy that I can go out and compete with the young guys. If I get the right golf course out here on the Champions Tour, I definitely have an advantage.