

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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BRANDT SNEDEKER



MODERATOR: We would like to welcome two-time Wyndham Championship winner Brandt Snedeker to the interview room.

(No audio.)

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Just a flood of great memories when I walk back on property. So many cool things happened in my career. Got my first Tour win in Greensboro. Super special. Kind of got me started out here. It's just been a place I've played really well at, made a ton of great friends here. Just means so much to me. It's kind of like a home event for me.

MODERATOR: You won earlier this season. What are you feeling good about your game heading into this week?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, I'm feeling really good about everything. I've been playing better, feel good about my game, probably as good as I've played for four or five years, confidence is really high. Getting on golf courses I know like this is super exciting for me because I know my games in a good place. So it's probably as confident I've been on a golf course in a long time, so that's always exciting.

MODERATOR: As a former FedExCup champion in 2012, what would it mean to you to make the Playoffs at this stage in your career 14 years later?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, it's everything. I took it for granted when I was doing it every year and playing these Playoff events and realizing how it seemed easy at the time and now realizing how hard it is as I've gotten older. It's been really fun to be back in the mix of it this year and have a chance to kind of make it to Memphis, a place I played well and I love. It's definitely in the forefront of my mind, definitely what I'm thinking about this week is trying to play well and make those Playoffs because they're kind of what we play for.

Q. Obviously there's a Presidents Cup this year. You win. Is it sort of the stuff of dreams to have this kind of year at this point?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, it's not something -- I thought I was playing well but until you actually do it. And then to have this a great honor being captain for Team USA has been awesome, it's been really exciting and fun to be a part of. To have these both things going on at the same time has been really special.

It's been a really exciting year for me on and off the golf course. Very calming actually for me for the first time in a long time where it's been kind of I've had so much stuff going on, I've



been able to focus my time and energy on different parts of my life that have been really successful this year, I feel like it's given me kind of a blueprint of how I need to kind of function as an older adult out here on Tour to be successful. It's been a great year with a lot of stuff going on.

Q. Brandt, how do you describe the highs and the lows of -- in particular I'm thinking of not getting it done at Valspar and then getting over the bar?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah. As a golfer, you're going to fail, there's just no way around it. I kind of took a really good lesson that week of being back in the mix at Valspar of what I did well and where I struggled on Sunday. Honestly, didn't play the way I wanted to.

But I took a lot of confidence out of that week of knowing that my good's good enough and I can compete out here still. Kind of built on it.

The one thing I think every PGA TOUR player that's been out here for a long time understands is that when you fail, you need to learn. I'm 45 years old and fail a lot out here, I'm still learning. So I learned a lot that week and kind of built on it for when I knew I was going to be in contention again at some point this year to make sure I took advantage of the opportunity.

I did a great job at Myrtle of staying kind of in the mix and giving myself chances and doing the right things under pressure to create the best possible outcome. Was really proud of that. Even though I haven't had a great finish since then, I played some really good golf. Just haven't been able to put that four rounds together like I did that week. It's just kind of part of golf, you're going to have some really good highs and you've got to kind of temper that knowing there's going to be some lows and you've got to be able to fight through it. I've had a lot of lows over the last probably three or four years, more so than I thought I would ever have to deal with. To have those highs is kind of why you do this, and so it's been fun to kind of ride both of those.

Q. (inaudible) to win again and how have you celebrated that?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, super gratifying. Talked about it a lot. You know, having kids who are 15 and 13 now, they've never really seen me, kind of remember me being successful out here to that degree of winning. So it was cool to have that moment with them of this is why I missed so much stuff, this is why I'm not around half the time. That was a great moment to be able to celebrate with them, understand why I'm on the road so much and why I practice so much, for those kind of moments. So it's been super gratifying to have those moments with the family and really celebrate with them and let them understand I'm still pretty good at this. I'm not telling just old stories like I used to be good and not good anymore, so it's fun to have those moments.

I celebrated a little bit afterwards. It's going to be more in the after-season, after everything gets done this year we'll sit down and really reevaluate and enjoy what this year's meant for



me.

Q. I know this because I was on the website earlier, but 48 days until the Presidents Cup. What have you -- what's done and all set in stone and what are you focused on at this point?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, I think all the back office stuff, so all the infrastructure stuff's pretty much down, out of my control now. You're still kind of tweaking everything when it comes to just certain things you want to be prevalent that week, whether it's messaging, whether it's things that you want to have in a team room or things that you want to have the guys really kind of focus on.

And then the team, which I know you're going to ask, the team will play itself in and out of the team. This is not a decision that's going to be made anytime soon. These guys are going to play the next four weeks and they're going to dictate who makes the team and who doesn't.

It seems like every year there's guys that play, that step up late in the year that play their way on the team and play fantastic golf. I think we were having a conversation yesterday about Cam last year. At this point he wasn't the Cameron Young that we know now. He won this week and went on and played great and became the Cameron Young that we all expected him to be and know he is.

I fully expect there's going to be a couple guys like that down the stretch that are going to play some great golf and put their names right in the mix.

My job as captain is to kind of let those guys go out and make their case on the golf course. There's no playing favorites or doing anything like that. Golf's going to dictate who plays on the team or who doesn't.

Q. Brandt, when you won your first tournament it was here in 2007. It was your fifth start as a professional. Jackson Koivun just won in his third start at the 3M recently. Do you kind of recall where your game was at in your third professional start?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah.

Q. And can you sort of as a comparison sort of give us where that is?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, not nearly as good as his, let's put it that way. It's pretty obvious. I don't think my game has probably ever been as good as his. He's a generational player. You look at every metric you want to look at. To do what he did in college, to do what he's done as a professional, this kid's really special.

Now, the hardest thing to do in golf is how do you handle success. We're pretty good at handling failure, but how do you handle success. Everything I've -- everybody I've talked to,



everything I read about him, got to play with him today, he's a great kid and he's not going to stop pushing to be the best he can be.

I'm excited to watch his career going forward. I think putting a limit on where this kid can go would be stupid because I don't think he knows how good he can be yet, but I'm very impressed. I think he's a great kid. He's great for the Tour. I think he embodies everything you want as a young star out here and I look forward to watching him play. It's going to be fun.

He's way better than I was at his age, even when I got 26 and got on Tour. I expect great things from him.

Q. Was today the first time you had met him?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: No. I played with him at Memorial a couple years ago when he was a freshman at Auburn and I was super impressed with him then. He made the cut. Didn't hit it -- he played really well, but he was an 18-year-old kid. So to see how he's kind of grown, matured was impressive. But I was impressed with him at 18, like he was a different kind of kid at 18 than most 18-year-olds are. I'm excited to watch him play and see where he kind of winds up.

Q. As captain of the team like a Presidents Cup, when you're scouting young players or looking at newcomers, for example, what specifically do you look for when you're considering maybe young players, fresh players for a team?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: At the end of the day you have to start with the results. You can love a player all you want to, but he's got to go out there and prove it under pressure. This is the way it is.

From there you kind of branch out, kind of see how they play in big events, see how they -- for Jackson, it's a unique case because he really hasn't played that many events as a professional. Obviously played a bunch of events as an amateur.

You look at everything. You talk to people around him, you talk to other players who have played with him, try to get a good sense of who he is and what makes him tick and then go from there.

But there's probably 20, 22 guys that have a chance of making this team right now so it's kind of wide open. There's guys who played great golf over two years that are right there that probably deserve to be picked and deserve to be on this team. The golf's going to dictate what happens from here.

I'm excited about the team we're going to put together, I'm excited about the decisions we're going to have to make going forward because at the end of the day, we're going to have a great choice of whoever makes the team. There's going to be a bunch of great players and



excited about getting them in the room.

Q. Do you feel like we need to get some new young blood out there, give some new guys a chance?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I don't ever really look at it like we have to change things or do things different. I think the golf dictates who needs to be on the team. I'm not into, oh, let's just take a young kid because we need a young kid on the team. That doesn't make any sense to me. I think you take the best players who give you the best opportunity of winning.

I don't think -- you can't discount what people have done and you can't -- it's really hard to forecast how guys are going to handle those kinds of things. You look at how they've played, what they're capable of, what their ceiling is, what their basement is, what their floor is and kind of go from there.

I don't view it as, oh, well, X player's played in seven Cups so he's a given quantity and we know what he does so we need to get some young blood on here do whatever. I don't view it that way. I view it as you want the 12 best players on that team to give you the best chance of winning to make a great team.

Q. Anybody, whether it's one of your assistant captains or maybe just somebody that you respect, reach out to you after he won or even before as he was turning pro saying you've got to consider this kid?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: No, no.

Q. As you look, there's a sense now -- Jackson may be sort of the outlier, but the younger players coming out are maybe different or better prepared than say when you came out?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Absolutely, not even close.

Q. What have you seen and what is the difference?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I just think it's the maturity level from these kids. I think college golf's gotten so much deeper and better. I think technology's helped a lot. These kids' games are so much more refined now when they turn pro now versus back when we didn't have Trackman, we didn't have these launch monitors and everything, where you kind of had to play more by feel. These guys know everything and they're coming out prepared.

They're playing college. When they're playing in college golf, they're playing like professionals now. The way they practice, the way they do everything. Back when I was playing college golf, it was more like, hey, go figure it out.

Now it's very regimented. They know what they're doing, they know how to work out, they



know how to keep their body ready to go, they know how to practice and prepare. So those kids are way better.

I played with Ben James today. I was super impressed. Great kid like coming out of college, he's going to be a worldbeater as well. I feel like every kid I play with out of college out here, I played with Michael Brennan last week or two weeks ago at 3M, like super impressed.

Every kid I play with seems like at that age, I'm in awe of how refined their game is. It's not like there's massive holes. Like when I turned pro I had massive holes in my game. I knew it, but I could get hot and do whatever. These kids don't have that, so it's fun to watch and be a part of.

Q. Brandt, when you started the season this year knowing that you were the captain, how did you look at the season? Did you put a percentage on I'm going to focus this much on my game, I'm going to focus this much on Presidents Cup, and then did that change at all with the good play and the victory?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, I think starting the season off I was more focused on Presidents Cup stuff. This is my job, this is what I'm going to spend my time doing, I don't want to mess this up, give it your full college effort here.

Then as the season went on I realized I could still play great golf and doing this. I kind of saw what Keegan did last captaincy and saw how well he played despite all the other stuff off the golf course.

It was kind of freeing to have that, hey, I've got this much time to practice today and I have to go do something else for Presidents Cup prep or whatever. It gave me a really strict regimen of what I needed to get done and kind of got me on a very regimented path, which I think has helped.

And then obviously playing well has only helped because I got to spend more time around the guys, got to spend more time competing against them, playing with them, seeing them on the range, seeing them in the locker room, understanding what's important to them when it comes to teams and what they think can help them be more cohesive unit, play better, be more relaxed, all those kind of things.

I think being in the locker room with the guys has helped. It's kind of hard to get a sense of that from guys if you're shooting them a text or talking to them on the phone because a lot of stuff gets lost in translation a lot of time, so it's been fun to be around the guys and talk to them.

Q. Is there a sense that sometimes when you focus on something else, that ends up freeing you up?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Yeah, for sure. I tell people the story all the time. The first few years



on Tour it was just my wife and I, we didn't have kids and I won one time. I had my first kid and my second kid a year after that and I won five or six times really quickly because I didn't have a choice. I had to be a dad so I had to really be strict on my time.

I used to practice myself and just be so engrossed with golf that I didn't have a chance. Played myself into bad form, overthink, overprepare, everything. When I had kids, I didn't have the option, I needed to be a dad. Got to be really strict on what I needed to do.

And this year's been like that again. I've been really strict on my time management, how to spend it, prepare, make sure when I'm at the golf course I have certain amount of time to be out there, needed to be ready to go and it's helped for sure.

Q. You just mentioned that you played today with Jackson Koivun and Ben James. That doesn't sound like an accident, but how's that process come about? Do you reach out to them and make this happen or is that --

BRANDT SNEDEKER: Today was actually a little bit of an accident. Ben James and I have the same teacher so I planned on playing a practice round with him, and then Jackson asked if he could join us. Absolutely, I'd love to see you.

Somewhat of an accident today, but very glad I got to see him, meet him, spend some time with him and talk to him. I had seen him in passing the last couple weeks. Kind of wanted to leave him alone because I know he's going through a lot with your first win and demands on your time and all that kind of stuff. Wanted him to really enjoy it.

It was good to spend time with him today, kind of get to know him a little bit. Excited to see both him and Ben, all these young kids out here. I played with - as I said Michael, I'll say his name again, I was super impressed with him a couple weeks ago and he played great last week at Rocket Mortgage. These young kids are pushing us old guys to stay in it, man. They're really good and it's fun to watch.

Q. If you don't make the Playoffs, will you attend them to scout guys and will you also try to set up some players so guys can play practice rounds?

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I'm going to be at Memphis for sure, close to home, not far. Hopefully playing, but if not I'll be there anyways.

And then obviously I'll be at Tour Championship for the Payne Stewart Award. Obviously something I'm super proud of and excited to celebrate Notah this year and what he's done. I'll be at both those events for other reasons and be around to see some guys if I need to or pop out and say hello or do whatever that entails, so I'll be at those two for sure.

MODERATOR: Thanks for the time. Good luck this week.

