

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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PADRAIG HARRINGTON



Q. Now joined by World golf Hall of Fame member Padraig Harrington here at The Ally Challenge. You're making your fourth appearance at this event. Just to start, how great is it to be back?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, I always enjoy my time here. I find the golf course difficult so it's not my -- not my best event let's say. I think I've had a second place the first year and a couple of --

Q. T-4 in '22.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: T-4, yeah (inaudible) exaggerate, it's OK. Yeah, look, I find the course difficult. I do enjoy the event, enjoy being here, but certainly wouldn't be the course that suits me most of the year.

Q. And the last time we saw you out here on PGA TOUR Champions was in Portugal, a third place finish. What have you been working on since then and how do you feel about everything?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: My game has been fine, just working on routines and the mental side of the game, that sort of stuff, a little bit of short game. Yeah, kind of happy with the way things are and with my swing. It's just a case of trying to get the best out of my mental game on the golf course.

Q. Paddy, I last saw you at Scioto several weeks ago. You were in the middle of an eight-week bender. Are you ready to go ahead and do another one?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, this is a one-and-done at the moment. Yeah, the eight weeks went well. I felt great in Portugal the last week. I wouldn't say I was tired when I got home, I just had three weeks off. Yeah, I'd do it again, no problem. I like playing golf so I don't have a problem with that. The tournaments, I wanted to play them all. At this stage of my career I have the luxury of playing golf where I want to, where I like to. Yeah, possibly could have another long run at the end of the year with the Playoffs on this tour, so we'll see.

Q. I wouldn't bet against you, that's for sure. I want to ask one more real quick. PGA TOUR going to match play in '28. Would you like to see some kind of format for that for the PGA TOUR Champions, to have a playoff champion or some type of event?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I'd certainly advocate that the Champions is the place to experiment with all these different formats. If you want to see if something works, this is the



place we should try it.

Yeah, we could try match play and that very format. We have a Stableford event. Any idea that you can come up with, if you want to try, the Champions Tour is the perfect place to do it. We're kind of reasonably open at this stage of our careers and we're quite happy to try something new and give it a run and see what it's like.

It would be interesting to see how it works out on the main tour. Traditionally it's been very unpopular having match play, but to have narrowed it down enough that they need to keep the best players in right to the end, which has always been the tough thing to do, so we'll see how it works out.

Q. Mr. Harrington, if you could maybe elaborate a little bit more on your thoughts on Warwick Hills. I know you said you may not play the way you hoped, but if you could maybe talk about some of your best memories here and what you think about (inaudible)?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I obviously played here back on the PGA TOUR back in the day. It's a very narrow golf course. The trees grow in. The rough's heavy, which suits me but at the moment it's pretty tough. If you miss the fairways, it's tough to hit the greens. So like I drove it well yesterday, hit five fairways. It's a tough week if you're only hitting -- I think I hit five fairways in 54 holes last year. Didn't drive it well that week. It's just a tough golf course to keep it on the cut grass and you need to.

So this is very much, I'm not sure if it's a straight hitter's course, but I would like to be straighter off the tee this week. That would be a big goal to make this easier, especially with the greens seem to be pretty fast and reasonably firm, they're releasing. Yeah, the more fairways you hit, I think the better you're going to do this week.

Q. Do you have a takeaway memory from your time here at Warwick?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I never did very well, so no, not one I can say I won or lost an event there. You tend to remember the wins and the close calls I'd say. Not here, no, nothing of note.

Q. How fun is it on 17?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Seventeen's great, yeah. It's got that little bit of -- for the player it makes them a little bit anxious like all those great stadium holes that we're actually very happy to make a 3 and walk away. It's one of those holes, just want to hit on the green, you want to lag your putt up, you want to tap it in. It's that kind of hole that you don't want to be the one creating drama, that's for sure. You just want to get it done and move on.

Q. Sounds like memories aren't the best here, but how do you change that?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I like it, I like it here. I don't have a problem coming to Flint. I enjoy being here. We have a great week of it. Just the golf course just doesn't suit me. That doesn't mean I don't enjoy the week or enjoy the place.

I think what you'll find is all golf courses, they're subtle differences. This is a lot of mature trees growing in, very tight fairways, and with the style of greens, you need to be on those fairways. It just doesn't suit my style of game. It's not that I can't play well here, it's not that I can't win here, but I don't come to this golf course and say this is my week, I have an advantage here.

So that in itself motivates me that I want to come here and sort of -- you always want to do well. The harder it is, the more you want to prove yourself, so I'm keen to do that. It's just been like I think the last two years here are probably the worst results I've ever had on the Champions Tour. It's a tough course for me.

Q. Beyond the golf, what's it like to be back in Michigan?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, always enjoy coming here. It's a pretty easy direct flight from Dublin, which makes it very easy. Flew in on Tuesday, Dublin to Detroit. It was probably one of the easier events I've come to, pretty straightforward. That makes it nice.

As I said, we enjoy the week here. I don't think -- usually I have local friends. I don't have too many local friends, but we do make the most of it. We tend to go down to Fenton and eat down there. What's it called, The Yard, that big -- The Yard? The Yard something?

Q. Beer and bar food?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Bar food. Not too much beer. Maybe at the end of the week if I win.

Q. I think last question, lots of people are coming out from the area and beyond the area, they're excited to come out here and see you. Just any message to fans?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: The Champions Tour is a great place to come and watch. You tend to see a lot of the people, you know the names, you've seen them over the years. You can get up close and personal like at any golf event. We're a little bit more relaxed. On the golf course we're trying hard, we're competing, but in general it's a lot more relaxed atmosphere around the tournament. We tend to enjoy ourselves a little bit more at this stage of our careers, of our lives. Yeah, it's a good place to come and have a relaxed day out.