

FINAL ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE
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MICHAEL BRENNAN (-16)



MODERATOR: Evening, everyone. We are joined with our 2026 Baycurrent Classic winner, Michael Brennan.

Michael, congrats on capturing your third PGA Tour victory and second this season. How did it feel to get it across the line on 18 green?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: It felt awesome. I mean, I was nervous the last couple holes. Jacob was playing some really good golf, he was charging.

Hit really good shots into 15, great save on 16, some really good shots into 17. It was nice to know I had two putts on 18 green. But it's a nervous tee shot, that's for sure.

MODERATOR: You've been in this position before on a Sunday in the final group, but what were nerves like entering the round, and kind of like you mentioned, especially on 18 tee?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: I was really proud of the way that I felt, and maybe I didn't have full control over how I felt but I was more calm today than I have been in weeks past when I've been in contention. I try to start the round and just try to treat it as best I could as any other normal round, and I felt like I did a really good job of that early. Even late in the round, yes, I was nervous, but maybe less so than some of the other tournaments that I had been closing recently. And I think that's progress. I know I still have a ways to go before I feel how I think I would like to feel coming down the stretch. Really happy with the execution on 18. Even 17, hit a really good tee ball, really good tee ball on 18. Yeah, happy with how I was able to handle it today.

MODERATOR: Mentioned greenside you were giving credit to your team and the support around you. What's it like to have your parents here and brother here for this win?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, it means a lot to have the entire family here. First win with Sean here, so it's really cool, excited to celebrate with him later. He's giving me the cheers right now.

Yeah, it means a lot. It's great to have my family around. I love my family, they've been huge supporters of me and the reason that I play golf, so it's awesome.

Q. Your first time here in Japan. What's your initial thoughts of the fans, the crowds here and the food, and looking forward to exploring following this win?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, Japan's been great. The crowds were awesome, very

supportive. I feel very welcome in Japan even though it's my first time here.

I felt like their golf understanding was very high and they clapped when you hit a good shot. When the green was blind and you hit a shot onto the green, you could tell based on the amount of claps how good the shot was. It's not always the case, but it's nice when it does happen like that.

The food's been amazing this week. I'm excited to get some more really good food. It's been unbelievable to have the Japanese cuisine.

Q. Recently, like yourself along with Jackson, Michael and some others, you guys have won pretty early after just coming out of college. So how do you feel about that with lots of young players coming through pretty quickly?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, it's cool. I've been playing golf against Thorbjornsen for a long time, since we were junior golfers. Yeah, it's really cool to have -- you know, see them win and have success as well. I hope that we play against each other for a long time.

Q. Whenever you putt, whether it's a long putt or a short putt, you don't do any prep, you just go straight into it. Is that something you've been doing for a long time? Does it have any advantages?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, I haven't taken practice strokes for a while now. It hasn't really been part of my routine. I had done it before in the past, but I just think that it doesn't help me very much and so I don't do it. There's no -- I think I just get into the putt a little bit quicker when I don't take practice strokes, just focus on my setup and then just try to feel it as best I can.

Q. Immediately after you won, you were described as a star in the making. How do you handle that kind of praise especially when you're starting to win more and more competitions?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: I don't know. It's nice to hear that people think highly of my golf game, but it's just my golf game that they know about me and think highly of. I don't put a ton of credit to it. Not that I think they're wrong, but it's just golf.

Q. Since you were a sponsor's exemption in Utah last year, it hasn't been too long since then, but has anything changed for you like mentally, physically about your golf game within that short amount of time?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, I think I've made a few technical changes. My putting's improved a lot since then. Hired a coach and he's helped tremendously. The second half of my year I putted much better than I did the first half.

Physically, I don't think much has changed. I stuck with Adam Harrell as my golf coach, he's

been my golf coach since I was 12, 13 years old. I've had the same trainer for the last eight years, so on that side of things, nothing has really changed.

I've improved on the greens and that's been great to see. It's been important coming down the stretch in a few of these tournaments recently, so it's great to see that work paying off. Yeah, that's probably the biggest difference I've seen.

Q. Throughout the tournament your driving accuracy has been at the top of the field, so congratulations for that. Has that kind of helped you throughout the week here at Yokohama because I hear that some people have said that they thought that the tee shots or the fairways have been pretty narrow?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, it's important to hit the fairways at this golf course. With the Zoysia grass rough, the ball is a little more unpredictable than some of the other grasses that we play, I feel that the ball jumps more often and goes very far, so you have a lot more control when you do hit in the fairway.

I thought our game plan this week was maybe even slightly more conservative than normal. I didn't hit a ton of drivers. There were a few holes where I actually hit less than driver where some of the guys hit driver, which is very I would say uncharacteristic of me. I'm normally the one to try to hit driver as much as possible, but as a result, I did hit a lot of fairways. And my irons were really sharp this week, I hit a lot of really good long irons so when I wasn't in the fairway, I took advantage of it.

Q. For your 3-wood, you're using the Titleist prototype; is that correct?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yes.

Q. So when did you start using that and how has that helped you in your game since?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, I've kind of bounced around to a couple different 3-woods this year, and I started playing this 3-wood I think at Colonial this year, which was in Ft. Worth. I'm pretty sure that was the week that I switched over to the 3-wood that I'm still playing. So that was sometime in -- do you have any idea?

MODERATOR: May or June.

MICHAEL BRENNAN: I don't know, May or June maybe. Middle of the year.

MODERATOR: Beginning of June.

Q. And how has that helped?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Oh, yeah, it's been great. I feel like the spin consistency is better

with that 3-wood for me. So when I toe the golf ball, it doesn't go too, too far. When I heel it, it doesn't spin too much and it stays relatively consistent.

I feel like there's a little bit of a right bias miss for me, which I think is good. I typically play a cut with the longer clubs, so knowing that it's not going to go left super often gives me freedom to swing hard.

Q. So you've been playing great since your college days and after you graduated, so maybe thinking about from your college days, what was the biggest takeaway? And another question is that if you could give the upcoming junior golfers two tips?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, I loved my college experience at Wake Forest. Our team and coaches and trainers, they were unbelievable and helped me develop as a player. In college, I felt like I was very inconsistent, like I would either play really good and win a couple times or I would play poorly and finish 50th, which they don't have as many players in the field so that would be near the bottom.

And I felt like after college what has improved in my game has been a little bit more consistency. Worked on the wedges a lot more. I would say that's really important for the younger kids that are coming up is distance control, like making sure that you're hitting the number. That becomes crucial, especially when you're playing in tough conditions and in the wind. So distance control, I definitely improved on that.

My putting has improved a lot as well. For me in college I felt it was a little more raw, I could hit the ball pretty far, and sometimes it worked and I played great, sometimes it didn't. Honing that in a little bit has definitely helped as well.

Yeah, for the young kids, it's just work hard and try to learn from your mistakes because I think that's the best way to improve is to kind of fail first, and I feel like I've seen that throughout my career. I've had some disappointing setbacks early at different stages of golf, whether it be junior golf, college golf or professional golf. Just keep trying to learn from it and keep getting better.

Q. A couple things here. Now that you have three wins under your belt, what is your next maybe short-term and long-term goals?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: I haven't quite set down with my team to make the goals for next year, maybe some rough outlines.

It would be really cool to play in the Ryder Cup next year in Ireland. That's definitely a goal of probably most Americans who play on the PGA Tour. I think that would be an amazing experience.

I'm excited to get another crack at the majors. I think I learned a lot this year. Yeah, it's maybe a slightly different test than other tournaments, but I'm looking forward to going to

play in those again.

Q. And also, when you were younger, was there a player that you looked up to, and if so, who and why?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Tiger Woods was always my favorite player growing up. I named my cat after him, so when we were really young, I don't know, my cat's 18 now so I was probably 6 or 7 years old.

I liked watching like Jordan, J.T., Rickie, Smylie, that kind of group. They seemed fun as maybe a middle schooler when I was going through middle school. I did dress up as Rickie Fowler also for Halloween one year, but Tiger Woods is my favorite.

Q. With playing on a Japanese course for the past four days, what club helped contribute to your win?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: I felt like I hit a lot of 7-woods this week. I go between a 7-wood and a 3-iron, and I played the 7-wood this week. It's normally a club I go to when I expect there to be thick rough or I hit second shots into par 5s, but Ollie and I felt -- which I didn't do very often. I didn't hit the 7-wood into greens very often, but I did hit a lot off the tee which maybe is a little less common.

But I was very solid with the 7-wood, so anytime I was trying to be a little more conservative I didn't mess it up and I put it in the fairway, which was a great feeling and I could rely on it coming down the stretch. I hit 7-wood into 15, I hit it a couple times in the final round. Hit them all solid.

Q. Across the last two years you have six wins in 14 Tour-sanctioned starts between the months of August and October. What makes this time of year so good for your game?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: That's a great question.

I don't know. I think that's something maybe me and my coach can try to think about and maybe analyze why that might be. Maybe I have a year under my belt and maybe it's an offseason thing, not prepping properly or playing in tournaments, you know, maybe that's helpful for me more so than practicing.

But at the same time I hadn't played a tournament other than last week for five weeks prior, so it's not exactly playing into form a ton this week. I don't know, I have to think on it.

Q. Last one for me, your good friend Thomas Ponder's currently No. 1 on PGA Tour Americas entering the Tour Championship next week. What can you say about him and your time with him on PGA Tour Americas?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Yeah, Pondy and I spent the last year and a half together just traveling, doing dinners, practice rounds. We play every Tuesday, and he always kicked our butt in practice rounds on Tuesday. So it's awesome to see that he's putting some of that Tuesday practice round mojo into the tournaments this year and having a lot of success. I'm very happy for him and hope that he finishes strong, which I have no doubt that he will. It will be awesome to see what he does on the Korn Ferry Tour next year.

MODERATOR: Finally, what does a win look like tonight in Tokyo with friends and family?

MICHAEL BRENNAN: I don't know. I don't know where we're going to go. We are staying in Tokyo, so we'll be heading up there whenever we leave the course. I'm not really too sure what we're going to get up to. I think my caddie, Ollie, is kind of in charge of that tonight.

MODERATOR: Perfect. **Michael, again, congrats on the win.**

MICHAEL BRENNAN: Thank you.