

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your round today and just the course after playing it? It's your first time here?

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: First time here, yeah. It's a nice golf course, interesting course. There's plenty of water on it. In terms of for my own game, takes the driver out of my hands a few too many times. You know, the times you do hit the driver, you've got to do good off the tee here, you can do well. You can take the golf course on if you drive it well here. It breaks the back of the golf course if you drive it well, so that's kind of what you've got to do.

Q. You kind of touched on this because I know you're a long bomber. When you play on a tour like this, what does it take to win out here with these guys?

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: You've still got to shoot the scores. Yeah, okay, I have an advantage off the tee, but it's nullified on some courses. So like there's a lot of out of bounds here so there's not very many holes here where I'm standing up and opening up the shoulder. There's plenty of other holes where just the whole field is going to have to hit to a certain area and play from there.

Look, I'll turn up on some courses like that Grand Bear where it's a big advantage to be long off the tee. This week, not so. I just have to play better golf. You've got to hole the putts. The guys, it's amazing, most of the guys when they come back out here, they seem to reset who they are. You know, they find their place, the same place that they probably had on the PGA Tour they find out here again.

Q. Does it feel good to be the young guy out here?

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, it's nice. Nice to have that advantage, yeah, no doubt about it. I'm enjoying it out here. It's obviously a lot more relaxed. A few injuries, so I'm very happy that I can play in a cart and just take it a little easier during the week. 54 holes is good for me. Yeah, there's a lot of good things about being on the Champions Tour.

Q. I know you're playing well, you had that nice finish at the PGA Championship last year, you played well at the Masters, missed the cut by, what, one stroke, two strokes? Not much?

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: I should have been under par, not missing the cut. Should have been in contention. There you go. The game is solid. I just don't putt as well as -- got to hole the putts. Hopefully, being out on this tour I'll create more opportunities and start holing a few more putts and start feeling good about my putting.

Q. You didn't play out here on the regular tour. Was there a certain reason why schedule-wise?

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: This course?

Q. Yeah, this course.

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: When did they stop playing here?

Q. 2002 was the last time.

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: I really only started playing -- I had my playing rights before that, but I didn't take my playing rights until 2005. I still was playing in Europe at that stage. Maybe the invitations and the majors, but it just wasn't on my radar at that stage. I wasn't ready for it, to be honest. I came when I was ready.

Q. Do you think, is there any disadvantage or not -- some of these guys have played this course six or seven times when on the regular tour.

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, they have an advantage, they know some of the holes. There's no doubt that I played it twice, but I played to pin positions at the front of the greens and some of these greens are long. Yeah, there will be a couple of positions that I will overthink the pin and think it's harder than it is and there will be a couple of times during the week that I'll think the pin is easier than it is. That's the experience, what can I do about it? I just have to put up with it. Hopefully, I don't get cut out with making those mistakes. Sometimes a bit of ignorance can be good as well. I might know a thing or two that doesn't catch me out.

Q. Good point. It always comes down to execution anyway. If you hadn't played the course --

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, familiarity helps you be comfortable over the ball and that helps with the execution. But again, I'm sure there's people out here that have got a hole or two that they remember bad things on. I don't have any baggage on the golf course. It's not like going back to Augusta where you've got baggage on all the holes. Here I don't carry any baggage at the moment.

Q. You and Steve Stricker, you guys got kind of a little bond just the fact that --

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: I'm sure we will. I haven't seen him since the Ryder Cup. I did a couple of weeks afterwards, but I haven't seen him since he's been ill, so I'll catch up this week. Of course we'll have a bond. He's got one over me.

Q. I wasn't really going in that direction.

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: I know. All Ryder Cup captains have a bond going forward, but no more so than the one you're competing against.

Q. And you guys have a good healthy respect for each other?

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: Absolutely. We got on well. Steve is a tough customer, I've always known that.

Q. And it's good to have him back out here?

PÁDRAIG HARRINGTON: Oh, it's great. Quite scary really, his illness.