

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: BRAD FAXON
Friday, June 12, 2015



MICHAEL BALIKER: I'd like to welcome Brad Faxon into the interview room here at the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS. Great round today obviously, the new course record, 7-under 64 at Belmont Country Club.

BRAD FAXON: Is that right? Cool.

MICHAEL BALIKER: Start out by taking us through the round today.

BRAD FAXON: You know what, I couldn't have been in a worse mood than I was yesterday after I played and probably half an hour before I teed off. I played poorly yesterday. I putted not very well. I missed a short putt on the last hole, which always gets you mad anyway. This tournament means a lot to me being here close to home, and Belmont's been such a great place to have this event. Constellation's got to be happy because it's a great course and a great setup.

So, I mean, I always think if I'm going to write a book about putting, it's got to be something to do with the psychology of the first putt. I said that outside. I made a 15-footer for a par that kind of squeaked in the right side and it just sets you off, puts you in the right frame of mind. It was kind of an ugly second shot, not a good pitch shot, and then you make that putt for par and it was as good as Billy's driver and 7-iron to 10 feet and miss. It's funny how that just kind of started the round and shaped the round for me. Made a 5-footer for par on the next hole on 2, and then on 4 I hit a hybrid club from the middle of the fairway to three feet and made an eagle. All of a sudden I'm 2-under par after three and it just didn't stop. So if we had those stats that we did of strokes gained, this would be a good round.

MICHAEL BALIKER: We spoke outside about how there's a new pin on your visor. If you can just take us through how you came across that and the story behind that.

BRAD FAXON: The Mass State Police pin. I was on a flight I think coming back from Florida up to Boston last year and I was sitting next to this guy. Sometimes you're on a plane and people recognize you and this guy did, he was a golfer, and he just kept talking and talking. He had one of these cool accents, he should have been in the movies. I didn't ask him what I did for a while and finally he said he was with the state police, and for some reason I think it's a good thing to know the state police guys. We just kind of exchanged numbers and every once in a while Kenny would send me a nice text and he showed up yesterday, sent me a text and said, I'm going to come out and watch. He just had this pin with him and he said, Do you want to wear this? I said, Sure, absolutely. His last name's G-A-E-T-Z. He would call me after ever bogey he made sometimes. I would say, Stop doing that.

Q. Brad, we spoke about the round a little bit downstairs, but when was the last time

you had a bogey-less round here on the Champions Tour?

BRAD FAXON: Yes, not often. As a matter of fact, I probably lead the tour in most bogeys. I'm not kidding. It's been a funny year. I haven't played very well. I've had a couple good rounds and I keep thinking I'm not doing anything terribly well or terribly bad, and every once in a while I have a good round like this where I putt the eyes out of it. I made some nice saves.

Other than the first hole, I made that five-footer on the second hole. The fourth hole's a par 3, I made a 12-footer to keep my two-putt there. Then I made a 15-footer for birdie on 6, a 50-footer for birdie on 8, 20-footer for birdie on 9, 30-footer for birdie on 11. Yeah, so it was nice.

And then I missed about a seven-footer for a birdie on the 13th hole and people are like, What's wrong with you? It's funny how that happens.

But then the miracle of all miracles was on 15 and 16. I hit a bunker shot from 50 yards probably to three feet, which I couldn't do that again if I had a large bucket. And then I made about a 30-footer for a par on 16 on a putt that never had any right to go in. It came in the back door, and I almost hit it in the hazard and then I almost hit a tree, almost hit it out of bounds and then I ended up in somebody's drink to the right there. So it was just everything went well, obviously when you shoot that score.

Q. Brad, you've played so much with Billy over the years. When you start putting like this and he's playing with you and he sees it, what does he say to you?

BRAD FAXON: He laughs, he shakes his head. I mean, we've played so much golf together and I've seen him on streaks where he's playing great. I've never seen him hit it as good as he's hitting it now. He's very confident, he's hitting it far, he's hitting it high. If he gets that putter going a little bit and he's done it this year, he's played well, he won a tournament with Joe Durant at the Legends and he's been close a lot, so every part of his game's working. This is fickle sometimes how you can -- you know sometimes the putts are close to going in, they don't. It's frustrating, you've got to stay patient, and I think that's right where he is now because all his putts look like they're close. And he said it in the interview, didn't he? He said he knows he's playing well. He's getting up on hard holes hitting drivers, smoking them down the middle and hitting nice iron shots. I think that's when you can really get more frustrated when it's right there, but I know he's going to play good. I think he knows he's going to play good.

Q. Bodes well for the CVS?

BRAD FAXON: Very good for the CVS. We're partners if you didn't figure that out.

DAVE SENKO: Just an FYI, that was Brad's low round on the Champions Tour. He had a 65 in the second round when you won Insuperity in '11.

BRAD FAXON: This was 6-under or 7-under?

DAVE SENKO: Six, I think.

BRAD FAXON: Yeah, that's a 71.