

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
February 17, 2018

PATRICK CANTLAY (-9)



GENESIS OPEN

SHARON SHIN: I would like to welcome Patrick Cantlay. Today you shot a 2-under 69, sitting at 9 under, one off the lead playing in the final round. Please tell us about how it went today.

PATRICK CANTLAY: It was kind of a roller coaster today. I didn't play as cleanly as I would have liked, but I really stayed in it and made a bunch of putts and pitched the ball really well. I thought given everything it was a really good day, a big momentum day, especially considering I just wasn't firing on all cylinders out of the gate.

SHARON SHIN: And we have to talk about that putt on 18, what a great way to end your round, a birdie putt from 54 feet. What was going through your mind and how important is it for you to end on such a positive note entering the final round?

PATRICK CANTLAY: It's huge momentum wise. I really wanted to birdie the last hole. I was a little pissed at myself for short-siding myself on 17 and I just tried to click in and roll it at cup speed, and I rolled it a little too fast or a little faster than I would have liked but it caught the hole.

SHARON SHIN: You already have a win at Shriners and you're going for your second win this season. How important would it be or how special would it be to win here in L.A. where you went to school and UCLA down the road?

PATRICK CANTLAY: It would be nice with all the support I have out here. I have a bunch of support, family and friends, and the crowd's pulling for me and it feels really good and I love the golf course and it would be special.

SHARON SHIN: I would like to open it up for questions.

Q. Patrick, was there anything different you did on the back side than the front? The back you seemed to really sort of settle down and make some headway. The front you kind of -- you lost a stroke to par, right?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, I played really well on the back. On the front it was just -- like I said, I just -- I was close on a couple shots that turned out really, really bad. Like the one on 7 was a massive mistake, I made a big mistake on 6, but fortunately I got both those balls up and down. So it was just one of those days. I just grinded through it and really made sure I was present for every shot and I felt like that paid dividends on the back side. The front side is actually pretty good, it could have been worse than what it was, but the mindset all day was just staying present and clicking into every shot, and I did that and the back nine was

good.

Q. As much attention as the putt on 18's going to get, I wonder how critical say 4 through 7 was to your round, and what were your options on 6, or was that your only option?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, 3, 4 --

Q. And 3, sorry.

PATRICK CANTLAY: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were all just -- I just, you know, kept hitting great shots. I didn't really feel like I had much of another option on 6. I thought I could have easily putted it up the top and left myself 15, 20 feet up the hill, but not to get it close, that was really my only option. But I hit great pitches and I hit a great bunker shot on 3 and I made all those putts and that was huge for the momentum.

Q. Did you know your shot on 6 was good as soon as you hit it?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, it got so much -- I was able to get so much height on it off that tight downhill lie off the green that I thought it would be pretty good when it was in the air.

Q. Speaking of the momentum, Patrick, making that putt on 18, how important was it for you to get into the last group, for starters? And just as a follow to that, what is your impression of Bubba and his game and his quirkiness and whatnot. Obviously you don't know him well, but you know of him pretty well, I'm assuming?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, the putt's huge. It's so nice to birdie the last hole. That's one of the things I always feel like I do a lot of and that's big momentum going into Sunday.

I don't really know Bubba that well. I've never played golf with him before, so I'm just going to do my own thing and stick to my game plan and stay present.

Q. I know you don't know him, but from afar have you watched his game and what's your impression?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I try not to pay attention to anybody else. Everybody kind of does their own deal and I'm just doing mine.

Q. What's the hardest part of turning what could have easily been a 75 today into a --

PATRICK CANTLAY: I don't know if it was that bad.

Q. Well, early there were some ones that you obviously had to produce some really good shots to not make bogeys.

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah. It's just, like I said, it's staying present. I feel like if I can just engage and not worry about where I am on a particular hole or what's going on and I just engage and stay present in whatever I'm doing at that particular time, it all turns out better than what you would expect. Making sure you stay present and having that confidence in yourself that if you just click in and focus, it all will be good and that's kind of the head space I'm in.

Q. Basically, you're saying you've left the bad behind immediately. Are you pretty good at doing that?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, it just doesn't matter. Wherever you are, you've just got to click in and do your best, and if you're able to stay present and objective and give it your full attention and have that confidence that it's going to be good, that's kind of what I'm going for all the time.

Q. We just had Bubba and he's saying he struggles he's keeping attention and you're the exact opposite. How do you think that's going to play out tomorrow?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I'm just going to do my thing. That's the biggest insight, the last -- to what I just said is probably the biggest insight I could give you to what I'm thinking out there and I'm going to stick to it.

Q. You said you stay in the present. Do you mean you use your conscious mind, that you focus on the process?

PATRICK CANTLAY: That's a deep question. Anytime you start talking about conscious, that opens a can of worms. I would say I just -- I believe that on every single shot I give it my full attention and don't let the moment get too big or don't let the outcome become too big. Give it everything I've got, click in as much as I can and trust in what I'm doing, it will all be good.

Q. You use knowledge?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, that's definitely a big part of it.

Q. That's a deep question. Can you talk about, I know you would like to play a perfect round, but when you have a round like you had today, do you take some sort of different confidence from the fact you were able to turn it around and finish the way you did?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Sure. I feel like rounds like this happen. You're not going to stripe it every day exactly perfect. The last two days I did, and it's huge for momentum going forward the fact that I shot the same score today as I did yesterday.

Q. Got a shallow question and then a less shallow question for you. I heard a lot of

"Go Bruins" out there today. Has anybody done an Eight Clap for you this week?

PATRICK CANTLAY: There's one maybe yesterday, yeah.

Q. Okay. And the less shallow one, the pitch on 15 that kind of allowed you to -- you had what, a two-inch par putt? How important was that to be able to get over that bunker?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, that was an easy -- that was one of the easier ones I had all day, but it was huge. Definitely didn't want to lose a shot coming in.

Q. This won't be too deep, but a follow up on that, I'm curious how much of the actual home field advantage you feel out there throughout the round. Does it do anything at all to you, or are you just -- is it just background noise?

PATRICK CANTLAY: No, it's nice to have everyone pulling for me. I know I've got a bunch of friends and family in the crowd, and that's always nice. But I feel really comfortable on this golf course and I like being up here and, you know, I think there's a lot to be said for that.

Q. Does it get you a little extra juiced because you don't want to get out of your usual routine, of course?

PATRICK CANTLAY: No, I put enough pressure on myself, I don't feel too much different just because I've got friends and family in the crowd. It's nothing new.

Q. I know this is a little bit weird because we're being on Friday, but your streak in making cuts, is that a little bit a part of what you're talking about, that shot by shot thing?

PATRICK CANTLAY: That's just a by-product of that. That's not even -- I don't ever start the tournament saying I would like to make the cut this week.

Q. A lot of guys miss a lot -- consistency is probably the hardest thing for you guys out there from what I see?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, I have a good process for getting ready for tournaments and I definitely have tried to schedule my tournaments so I'm totally fresh when I do show up to play and I'm not playing a bunch of weeks in a row and I think that's helped.

Q. Would you describe what you do, if anything, for your back to be ready to play in a golf tournament?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I have a good routine that I've been doing the last year and even before that. Starts early with some PT and then a good warmup, and then after, same, PT

and sometimes a workout. But it's nothing too taxing, it's just maintenance. It's really helped me feel good all the time. It's nice to sit here after playing golf all day and walking all over and feeling great.

Q. Can you pinpoint when you felt good enough that you were -- you felt like you would be able to go back and play professionally?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Well, I felt like the tournament I could come back first was when I played Pebble last year. I felt ready to play, my body felt good and it felt good for the most part all the way through the last year. But I was off for so long and I think Pebble was about as early as I felt like I could have come back. I played for a couple months before that and felt pretty good, but I still needed that time to play and practice at home before I was going to play a Tour event.

Q. When's the last time you threw a club, if ever?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I've thrown a couple in my life. That's a good question, but I can't think of the last time.

Q. When you talk about moments, emotions, whatever, would you tend to guard against getting too high or getting too down?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I don't think it will help one way or the other, and so it's not a "try to do," it's just I've decided it's not going to help, so rarely do I feel overcome with emotion either way.

Q. Is that something you had to learn?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Probably so, but it's more -- yeah, it's like habit forming more than it is trying to learn something.

SHARON SHIN: All right. I would like to thank Patrick for his time and good luck tomorrow.