

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
August 4, 2019



J.T. POSTON (-22)

JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome J.T. Poston into the interview room, our 2019 Wyndham Championship winner.

J.T., if we can get some comments on your first PGA TOUR victory.

J.T. POSTON: Yeah, it feels unbelievable. I mean, a dream come true. You know, I've always dreamt that I could win out here and I felt like I kind of proved that. Gave myself some chances over the years. But to be able to do it here in North Carolina with a lot of friends and family, I don't think I could have drawn it up any better.

JOHN BUSH: And to become the first player since 1974 to play 72 holes and win without a bogey, talk about what that means to you.

J.T. POSTON: Yeah, I was telling some people earlier, I probably haven't had that many bogey-free rounds this season, this year, much less back-to-back, and to be able to do four in a row is pretty special, and to be able to finish it off with 62 on Sunday is pretty awesome.

Q. And before questions, you really set yourself up well now for a run in the FedExCup Playoffs. If we can get some thoughts on your goals over the next few weeks.

J.T. POSTON: Yeah. I mean, one of the goals at the start of the year was to win and to be in Atlanta at the TOUR Championship, so I think I was told this gets me to 27 on the FedExCup list. So that's a great position to be in going into the Playoffs. We'll celebrate this victory and have some fun tonight, but we'll have our game face ready to go the next couple weeks.

Q. When you imagined winning your first tournament, how close did the reality come to matching or exceeding what you imagined?

J.T. POSTON: Not even close, not even close. The only similarity from today than what I dreamed of was having a four-footer to win, but having all the support and hearing all the crowds and my friends and family cheer me on on every shot, after every shot was something that I had never dreamed of and was pretty special.

Q. What did it do for you? I know your grandpa was here and your coach was here and your mom, you've got a lot of people here. What did that do for you? Have you played in front of that many friends and family before?

J.T. POSTON: Only a few times when I've played here and when I've played in Wells Fargo in Charlotte. Those are kind of the two closest tournaments to home, so they're usually able to make it to those events, but usually I don't play this good whenever they get here. Yeah, it was pretty special to have everybody here, especially my grandfather. He was the one that built me my first golf club when I was three years old. I have so many memories of the golf course with him, following him to the range, playing golf with him growing up. Definitely would not be here without him, without his guidance.

Q. And then just to follow up real quickly, what did it do for you to see Keith win? Obviously you're pretty familiar with his game and who he is. Did you sort of think if he can do it, I can do it, too?

J.T. POSTON: Absolutely, yeah. We live together in Sea Island, Georgia, and we're really good friends. For him to be there behind 18 green when he knocked that putt in to win at the Honda, I was so happy for him.

But I remember stepping back and thinking, okay, I know I can beat him, I've done it before in Sea Island. Nothing against Keith, but I know I can hang with him. So if he can win on the PGA TOUR on a tough test like PGA National, then yeah, that gave me a lot of confidence and a lot of self belief going forward that I can win out here, too.

Q. How did you not let the moment get so big? You seemed to do a good job of putting your head down, but you said you heard the crowd, too. How did you kind of keep that poise?

J.T. POSTON: You know, I wish I had an answer for it. I just for some reason all week I felt calm. I never -- there were definitely some nerves and some pressure shots throughout the week and especially today, but I tried to tell myself that I had been in these types of situations and felt these kinds of nerves in college. Obviously this meant a lot more than maybe a college tournament, but I can remember being in college and that felt like a pretty big deal playing in those tournaments. It definitely meant a lot. So I just kind of drew off of those experiences and the positive results from college. Just tried to keep doing what I was doing. I was hitting it good and giving myself a lot of looks and the putter was really solid.

Q. J.T., as John said, you kind of kept your head down, you were pretty stoic after birdieing 15 and even after 18. When did you allow yourself to believe that you were going to win this tournament?

J.T. POSTON: Yeah. I mean, right up until that, until Ben's birdie putt on 18 went by the hole. I mean, it was kind of funny, we were sitting there in the scoring tent and I'm getting a lot of "congratulations" and "really proud of you" and this and that, and I'm sitting there thinking, he can still make birdie and this tournament's not over.

So I think I felt like I was the only one in the room that was not as positive as everybody else just because I wanted -- I just knew anything could happen. I knew it wasn't 100 percent

over with. I would say that's kind of when it hit was after his putt went by the hole.

Q. J.T., I was curious about the detail of your grandfather having built you your first club and if you could maybe go into detail with that and your relationship with him and how golf plays a part in that relationship.

J.T. POSTON: Yeah. So the club was an old persimmon head 5-wood that he, I don't know how he did it, what he did exactly, but I know he took a lot of the weight out because I was just a little three-year-old kid, I needed something that was light. But he gave me this 5-wood and I think we still have it somewhere at the house as like a memento.

Yeah, I mean, I can remember as a kid following him to the range and taking that 5-wood and just hitting balls for hours and just loving every minute of it.

And yeah, I mean, our relationship, a lot of it has revolved around golf. He was a big influence on me growing up as a kid even as far as how to act on a golf course when I was a kid, little things like that that I learned from him, just from watching him and how he carried himself when I was a kid.

It's so special to have him here. He hasn't been able to go to as many tournaments lately, he's had some health issues, and for him to be here is, you know, that's something that I will never, never forget.

Q. And his name, J.T.?

J.T. POSTON: Charles Cunningham. He goes by Doc, so I call him Pa-Doc.

Q. Two SoCon championships?

J.T. POSTON: Yeah, um-hmm.

Q. You mentioned before that those felt like a big deal to you. What were those like? What was that whole experience like winning those two?

J.T. POSTON: Yeah, at the time those were big deals. Any win in college was huge for me. I was trying to -- one of my biggest goals I remember in college was to be an All-American, and being at a smaller school, I needed to play that much better because our strength of schedule wasn't as strong.

But yeah, I remember getting to some conference championships, and especially my senior year, I was in a playoff with another guy from East Tennessee State and I remember hitting a 5-iron in there to about 20 feet or so and he made par and I had this 20-footer to win and I knocked it in. That's one of the first times, that's still a putt that I think back on even to this day anytime I have a putt that means a lot or kind of a pressure-type putt.

And then two weeks later I was in a regional and had the same thing, had to make probably a 25-footer to force a playoff to get to Nationals, which I had never done. And, you know, all I'm thinking about is the putt that I made in that conference championship and knocked that one in, got in the playoff, won the playoff, went to NAAs.

So it's things like that are stuff that I'll probably never forget, and I still draw off of those putts and those moments even out here on Tour.

Q. So not a lot of kids go to Western and end up on the PGA TOUR. Some of us went there to catch trout. When did you know and when did that become your goal or your dream?

J.T. POSTON: It was always a dream, I would say since before I was in college, probably since I was a young kid. I can remember watching Tiger win the Masters in '97. I was only probably four or five years old at the time, but I can remember watching it and thinking to myself, "I want to be that guy, that looks really cool."

So I would say even from a young age it was a goal of mine, a dream of mine to be out here, but I would say it didn't really settle in or hit home that I could -- I legitimately had a chance to be out here on Tour until probably my junior or senior year in college when I started having a lot of success.

Q. Have you thought at all about the exemption, because I know you were trying to get there and everything, and the Masters and all that stuff. Have you thought about all that yet?

J.T. POSTON: No. Yeah, that's unbelievable. I mean, the exemption, obviously job security's a good thing, but Augusta, that's another thing. That's a dream, that's something I've always dreamt of playing in that tournament. To know I'm in that field in April will be -- that will be an awesome week. It will be a week I'll never forget no matter what happens, that's a dream, so I'm pretty excited.

Q. (Question about tickets.)

J.T. POSTON: I don't know, we're going to have to work on that. I don't know what the ticket situation is there, but we'll figure it out.

Q. How good of a golfer was Doc and can you tell us just a little bit about like what he did for a living and who he is?

J.T. POSTON: He is a great golfer. He's 85 years old and he shoots his age probably every time he tees it up. I think he stopped keeping track a couple years ago because he just -- he used to keep track. I want to say the last time I asked him and he told me, it was in the 600s, the number of times he shot his age. And I think the first time he did it, I want to say he shot 64 or 5 when he was 66, so he can play.

I remember growing up, he just hit it -- similar game to myself, nothing flashy off the tee, but he kept it in front of him and his short game was unbelievable. That was kind of how I learned how to play golf was watching him at a competitive level, learning from him.

Q. Did he play amateur tournaments around here?

J.T. POSTON: He played in some senior am stuff. I know he played in maybe one Senior Brit Am and I want to say maybe a U.S. Senior Am. I can't remember where he played them, but he has played some tournaments here and there over the years. He loves golf. He's competitive just like most of us are. Yeah, he's great.

Q. So let's talk about tonight. How do you begin to celebrate your first Tour victory?

J.T. POSTON: I don't know. I've never done this before, so we're going to have to figure it out. I'm sure there will be a couple Coors Lights, a couple beers to be had tonight.

I'm just looking forward to celebrating it with all the friends and family that are here. You know, if it was another week where maybe not so many people would have gotten here, it still would be a great celebration, but to have them here to be a part of it will be -- it will be a good time. It will be a lot of fun and I'm pretty excited.

Q. You mentioned yesterday Lake Hickory Country Club was a Donald Ross. Does that help you when you grow up on a course like that and on a course like this?

J.T. POSTON: I'm actually not sure if it is a Donald Ross design, but it is very similar to this type of golf course where you have to -- there aren't as many drivers, you have to kind of learn where to hit it, where to miss it. A lot of the greens are back to front and so you kind of learn to keep it below the hole.

Yeah, it was a course that I played thousands of times as a kid and just knew exactly where to hit it. Playing a golf course this week that's similar to that, there is a little bit of a comfort level doing that.

JOHN BUSH: J.T., I'm assuming we'll see you in Maui as well at the Sentry Tournament of Champions in January.

J.T. POSTON: Yeah, that's another one. That'll be awesome, I can't wait.

JOHN BUSH: First of all, best of luck in the FedExCup Playoffs and congratulations once again on winning the Wyndham Championship.

J.T. POSTON: Thank you so much, appreciate it.