

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
February 13, 2020



PATRICK CANTLAY (-3)

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, it was a good start to the tournament. Obviously I love it this week. I think it's the best golf course on Tour and it's in perfect shape and we've got a perfect southern California day, which is what I'm used to, growing up here. It was a good start and played really solid tee to green. Hit a lot of good putts and didn't make a lot, but all in all it was a good day.

Q. When's the first time you played Riviera?

PATRICK CANTLAY: In college. Yeah, in college at UCLA my freshman year.

Q. Why do you think it's the best on Tour?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I think they change very little about the golf course and yet the scores are always relatively high, or the winning score is relatively always around 12 to 16 under par or something. And there's no real rough and the greens aren't overly firm and it's not crazy, crazy long. It's long, but they don't have to do much and the golf course always defends itself. There's no tricks, there's no water on the whole golf course, there's no real goofiness except maybe the 10th hole, but it's so short that you realize what you're getting into. So I just think all in all it's just the best test that we play.

Q. Did you leave anything out there? Were there any putts that you really thought you should have made that --

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, all the ones I missed. I rolled the ball really good and my speed was really good today. Usually that's a marker of good things to come. I like when they're fast like this and I'm used to poa annua growing up here in southern California. So yeah, I putted well today even though I didn't make much, which can happen around here.

Q. How much are you thinking about the Olympics? I know people ask you about it, but how much of a priority is that this year, to get in that position?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Obviously I would love to play Olympics and Ryder Cup. I think it would be a great honor to do both. I've never played either, but it's not really -- it's not really on the forefront of my mind ever. It's more like a reward that could happen later if I play really well all year. It would be a delight to go over there and play, but it's not one of my foremost goals; the foremost goals being the majors.

Q. What have you learned about consistency? Seems like every week you're up there. It's been that way for a while. What have you learned about how to maintain

that every time you come here?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Well, I think a lot of it's how I prepare. I don't play too many events, so I can get up for every event that there is and feel like I'm totally ready and prepared to play the event. That's just kind of how I go about things.

And I think even looking at stats last year, just all the parts of my game are really solid. If one part's down on a day, the other parts kind of bring me back up. You know, I'm also kind of like that a little bit demeanor-wise, I'm just always plodding along and going along, so it doesn't really surprise me or anything. Yeah, I think it's a combination of a couple things.

Q. How long does it take you to get ready for a tournament?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Well, depends if I've played like the week before or whatever. I'll probably always take a Monday off regardless to travel.

Q. Going into Pebble, for example, since you had a week off.

PATRICK CANTLAY: Sure. I kind of take Monday, Tuesday off the week before, maybe go to the gym. Then I'll start hitting some balls if I'm in California with Jamie Wednesday, Thursday and then I might set up some games and play Friday, Saturday, Sunday and travel on Monday and take Monday off. So I think being -- I think playing more towards coming into events, actually playing rounds and setting up a fun best-ball game. I played a lot with Michael Block, who's played in this tournament a bunch. He's a really well respected, very good player, club professional down at Arroyo Trabucco. So played with him the weekend before going into Pebble and I think the best way to get sharp is to actually go out and play.

Q. Are you working on anything or are you just maintaining at this point?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Seems like I'm always working on the same stuff in my swing, which isn't much, but tempo-related stuff and a little bit on just keeping my hands low because sometimes I have a tendency to get high. I don't switch around or work on too much stuff. I always try and make sure my numbers are dialed in, and we'll use TrackMan to help my distances in my practice. No, I don't work on too much, I just try and get the ball in the hole as fast as I can.

Q. You had a pretty extended offseason, too. You were off quite a bit before you came back out. Did you just put everything in the closet?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I just had a few different stages of being off. I was off for so long, three years, such a long time. The last session off I was off for nine or 10 months, no putts, no chips or anything. Yeah, it ebbed and flowed on what I was doing to try to get back.

Q. What's the longest you've gone without hitting a shot on purpose? In other words, noninjury-related, when you have an offseason?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Maybe a month or so.

Q. That long?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah.