

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**August 12, 2020**



**PATRICK REED**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** Patrick, thanks for joining us at the Wyndham Championship where you won your first victory, first of eight, what, seven years ago I guess it is now. Seems like just yesterday probably for us, I don't know about for you.

When you walk on the grounds here at Sedgefield, what sort of memories does that bring back for you given this was the site of your first victory?

**PATRICK REED:** It brings back a lot of memories, a lot of positive memories, a lot of great things. It's just a special place, especially driving in and going around that first tee and just remembering what those feelings were like and what those jitters were like stepping up on Sunday having a chance to win a golf tournament.

This week I haven't gotten to 10 yet, but in the past, every time I've played hole 10 I've gotten to that tee box, every emotion you can imagine goes through my mind, especially from the playoff from feeling like I let my wife and my team down when right after the first tee shot they signaled out of bounds immediately prematurely, and then getting up there and pulling off a golf shot that I did in order to win the golf tournament. So the highs and lows of just basically trying to get your first win.

It's a special place to me, special place to my family as well as my team just to be able to come back and support and be back here playing golf.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** It's a special week. And one of the other additions the last couple of seasons that makes this week even greater is the Wyndham Rewards, which is a season-long competition. You're No. 6 in the Wyndham Rewards entering this week. I think you can move as high as No. 3 with a victory here. Just speak to the initiative that's been added the last couple seasons and how meaningful that is for you guys to compete for the regular season.

**PATRICK REED:** I think it's very special for us, but also it means a lot to us because just the support that we get from Wyndham as well as the sponsors for this event, and what they do for us is amazing. I feel like it just shows how well you've played all year. And, you know, besides for an opposite field event and it's 300 points, a major that's 600, most of the events are in between that 500- and 600-point range, therefore you have to play well all year in order to be inside the top-10 and have a really good chance at playing well for East Lake.

I think, you know, just to have the support and recognition that Wyndham has for the players that have played well all year and for what they have done for us to keep on grinding, keep on playing hard means a lot, because anything can happen in playoffs. That's what playoffs

are. Now I think it's 2,000 for a win, so that's equivalent -- if you win the Northern Trust, that's equivalent of four victories on the PGA TOUR. That being said, it just means a lot to get rewarded for playing well all year round.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** And speaking of the Playoffs, you mentioned every season that you've been on Tour since you won here seven years now, seven seasons, you've advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs, but out of those seven, six of them you've made it to the TOUR Championship. That's pretty impressive and it speaks to your consistency, and obviously you need to throw in a victory at some point in there, which you've pretty much done every year. How big of an achievement is that to you? Where would you rate that in the scheme of things?

**PATRICK REED:** I would probably say that's probably the most underrated thing and probably overlooked thing that everyone looks at because to make it to East Lake consistently means you have to not only play really well every year, but also play well in the big events. In order to make it to East Lake, which top-30, most likely you need to win. If you don't have a win, you have to have a couple top-3 finishes and/or a ton of top-10s. To be able to do that, it just shows how consistent you've been playing. not just consistently by making cuts, but consistently contending, consistently having a chances to win golf tournaments. To be able to do that six out of the seven years for me is something that I definitely look for and hopefully continue that streak and get that number higher and higher every single year.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Well, you're in good shape to do it again this season. We'll start with a couple questions.

**Q. I just have a quick question about short iron play. So Sedgefield is the only Donald Ross original that serves as a regular PGA TOUR venue. The course features Ross' signature small and undulating greens which require accuracy. What are the keys to accurate short iron play and distance control?**

**PATRICK REED:** Honestly, I feel like the biggest thing is really you have to work at it, you have to practice at it a lot because a lot of the mid kind of like 9-iron, 9-iron on up, you basically have just a couple shots you hit with it, it's either a soft one or it's a normal one. When you get to those short irons and those wedges, you have to be able to not only control spin but control flight, control direction And you have probably an infinite amount of shots you have to hit with those.

It definitely shows on what guys actually work a lot at them and feel comfortable with them because they're also scoring clubs and around a golf course like this, you can hit the number exactly how you want to, but if you don't have the right kind of spin or if you don't land on the right ridge or the correct spot, the ball's going to work away from the hole and it's going to make it a lot tougher to make birdie or just get up and down for par. I think that's something that's going to be shown this week is not only putting the ball in the fairway, because out here you have to be playing from the fairway to be able to control wedges, but also see

who's able to attack flags and really control their golf ball with the short irons.

**Q. Patrick, you and the rest of the guys have gone on a couple of months now, this new normal on the PGA TOUR and it seems like you guys have done a great job following protocols, all that kind of stuff. How do you feel when you walk through those ropes safety-wise compared to the rest of your life? Is it not that big of a deal anymore?**

**PATRICK REED:** I feel like the Tour's done an amazing job on making sure that we not only stay safe, but feel safe when we're out here. So with all the procedures we have, I feel like everything out here on the road, being inside the bubble has been an adjustment, but a pretty, you know, easy and fluid adjustment for us to get used to.

I think the hardest adjustment we have is just not having fans, not having those support people out there so when you hit golf shots and you don't know where the greens are, you don't really know if it's a good shot or not. And then on top of it, when we're outside the bubble and outside the house and walking around or going to grab food at a place or whatever we're going to do, it's definitely kept us more aware, aware of our surroundings to keep social distancing, to separate ourselves from everyone else, don't go into large crowds.

I think that's the biggest thing because before COVID, it didn't matter how many people were around, you just kind of walk right in and you would be around everybody and really close to everyone and there could be people in there that have a cold or are sick. At the end of the day they're going to spread germs and spread, you know, spread colds and stuff like that. Therefore, everyone else is getting sick. I think the biggest thing is it just made us more aware. I wouldn't say it makes us feel less safe, just more aware of our surroundings and more aware of what we need to do to keep ourselves safe as well as everyone else.

**Q. Before the pandemic, at the start of this year, seemed like you were on a tear. You had lost a playoff at Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua and then won the WGC in Mexico. How would you assess your form now after the break with the pandemic? Do you feel like you were on like a mega year to start the season?**

**PATRICK REED:** I felt like the year was going to be a very strong year. I felt like I was playing some really solid golf, thought I was getting a lot out of the golf game. I feel like the golf game's definitely heading in the direction it's supposed to be at. I feel like the past couple weeks I've done things really well, I just need to put it all together. There's too many times where if I'm hitting the ball really well and I just don't quite make as many putts or vice versa, kind of ball-striking's just a hair off, I'm saving myself with the putter. I just need it all to click together at once. It's very close and there are spurts of that. I think that's just the thing, with that break everyone's trying to get into that kind of flow where they're getting more out of their round rather than feeling like they're doing a lot of things and getting less out of their rounds.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Finally, Patrick, last year you shot a final round 63 here and since your

victory you've had three top-25s, so pretty consistent at Sedgefield. What do you love about this golf course? What stands out to you?

**PATRICK REED:** I think the biggest thing is it's a shotmaker's golf course. It's not one of these where you just set up and hit it as hard as you can, as far as you can. It's more on kind of playing golf shots, whether it's driver off tee or irons off tee, you have to shape it both ways, you have to flight your ball. Hitting shots into greens you can get creative, because there's a lot of slopes and undulations in these greens so you can use a lot of ridges to feed the ball back towards the hole. You don't always have to fly it right at the flag. To be able to get that creative side and be able to see different types of shots I feel fits my game well and I've always liked to do that. Especially when you come out here and get a victory at this place, you always have good vibes when you come in. So I feel like the comfort level here is at an all-time high and you feel more free and you just go out and attack.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Well, we appreciate your time, Patrick, and good luck this week at the Wyndham Championship.

**PATRICK REED:** Thanks, bud.