

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**February 23, 2021**



**PATRICK REED**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome Patrick Reed, the defending champion of the World Golf Championships Workday Championship at The Concession.

Patrick, that's quite a mouthful, but you're here this week to defend your title, which is really strange given that you won in Mexico. Just talk about that a little bit. I guess you had a chance to see the golf course today, and if you have, what are your thoughts and how do you think it will fit your game?

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, it's always great defending whether you're at the same course or not. Being here and knowing the situation with COVID and the safety reasons and everything why we're here, it's one of those things that throughout this year it's going to be a revolving schedule it seems like. There's going to be some places depending on what happens and what we feel like is the best for the players and the communities to play in certain spots.

This place is awesome. I came out and played nine yesterday and nine today. The golf course is in perfect shape and this golf course from the tee, it looked really wide but you had to have command on the golf ball. The wind will blow, you'll get some of those crosswinds. Whether it's water edges or bunkers seems to tighten it up. It's one of those that you have to stay aggressive, but at the same time have to have full control of your golf ball.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Patrick, you're coming in here off a victory the last time we saw you play at the Farmers Insurance Open. Obviously your game's in tremendous shape. How do you feel about this week and the way you've been practicing the last couple weeks coming in here?

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, I feel good. I was able to get some pretty good work in earlier this week and part of last week with my coach, so I came down here a little early. It's a little hard practicing at home considering we said snow in Texas. The great thing is luckily we're safe, everything was fine and from that point on once we got kind of to Florida, just put our head down, grind and get back in the swing of things.

I think the biggest positive really was for me personally was when I got back after taking four or five days off because of weather, coming down and normally it takes me a couple days to really figure out what a golf club is. With the new swing changes I've been working on with Lead and everything, it seemed that I was able to kind of get right back on track. It took me maybe 30 minutes to maybe start getting the feel again. It just shows that we're doing the right things, working on the right things. Definitely gave me confidence moving forward and so far this week, been pretty solid so we feel good.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I noticed, I was looking at your nine victories and of those nine, this is the third one where you had to come in to defend at a different venue. I think you did it at the Barclays when it was called the Barclays and then the Northern Trust. How difficult is that and how strange is that to come to a different venue?

**PATRICK REED:** It's definitely different, you know, but at the same time I feel like for me it just allows me to keep on -- one, you have confidence obviously because you won that event, but at the same time it gets you right back on track to focusing on playing the golf course and not getting too relaxed out there. Because whether -- for example, if you're at your home course and you've played a lot of golf there, it's very easy to kind of just go through the motions. Being at a different site and a different event, it's very easy to kind of get locked in and go out and play well. It's always nice when you come in and you're able to know that, okay, I won this golf tournament even though it's at a different spot, this was the event that I was able to win at. Now it's just, well, let's go out and continue playing golf how you've been playing and hopefully you can have a chance late Sunday.

**Q. Patrick, since we're playing at The Concession, I thought I would ask you what you thought about the original Concession, the moment when Nicklaus conceded the putt to Jacklin. When you came across that story, will you think about it, and as a Ryder Cup guy whether that's a putt you would have conceded in a similar position?**

**PATRICK REED:** I don't know the full story about how it all transpired and everything. You know, it's definitely one of those that depending on how a person's playing, how the person's putting, what the putt looks like, et cetera, it's hard to tell whether you would give a putt or not. You know, I'm pretty sure there's a reason that Mr. Nicklaus felt like that putt should have been given and it's one of those things that would be his decision, not anyone else's. Obviously for him he felt like it was the right decision at the time.

**Q. Patrick, I just want to nail down the details on the snowstorm that you had. You said there was no electricity issues?**

**PATRICK REED:** Well, no --

**Q. How did you spend those days?**

**PATRICK REED:** There were definitely electricity issues, closures and everything, but the biggest priority is whenever you have a bad storm like that is as long as your family and everyone is safe. Luckily, everyone was able to be safe.

I know one of our houses had a power outage and both my brothers-in-law, their power was out. Our house runs on a generator, so they were able to come over to the house and able to stay warm and everything.

It was devastating what happened to the City of Houston as well as what happened

throughout all of Texas. You see just the devastation of people's houses and of businesses and just of everything that kind of ran on. It's definitely something that I'm grateful to be okay, family's doing well and really just thinking about everyone else and hopefully everyone is able to have speedy recovery and get back on track and start moving forward and getting better.

**Q. You don't play Riv anyway, right?**

**PATRICK REED:** I was taking that week off either way. The plan was to have kind of a really light week before that, kind of recovering from Saudi and then kind of hit it hard last week, but the snow and ice kind of allowed me to have a little bit longer break. At the end of the day it was great, I was able to spend a lot of time with the little ones and not really think about golf and just kind of play with them and really just run around the house.

**Q. I was going to say, what did you do instead?**

**PATRICK REED:** We built a snowman in the two inches of snow that we had and just kind of hung out with the kids, just was a dad. Just didn't really focus much on golf besides just really focusing on what they're doing, playing with them and probably just making a lot of noise around the house.

**Q. Patrick, one of the big points of discussion this year has been what it takes to win a tournament. You've been on both sides of that, you've won a bunch and you've come close a number of times. Obviously there's making shots on a very practical level, but are you able to pinpoint a psychological difference between the times that you win and the times when you didn't and say, okay, this is something I did right and this is something I did wrong in the two different cases?**

**PATRICK REED:** I think the biggest thing is really it seemed like there are times throughout golf you kind of get tunnel vision, everything seems to just kind of flow. Then there's times obviously you have the ups and downs of golf where you start hitting some loose shots. And it seems like the times you win, you get kind of those 50/50 balls, a couple of those up and down, but then at the same time it's those weeks where you're able to kind of mentally forget the good runs but also forget the bad runs. You're able to kind of stay in the moment.

There's a lot of times when you're out there, you're playing that if you're up 1 or -- up 1, up 5, down 1, down 5, it shouldn't really change how you play. You should still make a game plan for how you want to play that golf course and stay in the moment. I think that's the biggest thing is it seems like the times that you are able to pull off the win and times that you fall short, sometimes you get too caught up in the moment and push too hard in certain areas or save a lead rather than what got you to that point, which is kind of put your head down and grind and go ahead and attack the golf course on your strategy.

**Q. That was interesting when you said forget the good stretches as well. By that do you mean don't try to save the lead? What does that mean to forget the good**

**stretches?**

**PATRICK REED:** For example, there's a good bit of times guys will make a heck of a birdie on a hole and they'll follow it up with a bogey because they get too hyped up and they'll get too focused on what happened in the past when you should be always trying to stay in the present.

I've been a firm believer of that in golf that you should try to focus on every single shot that you have then and there, not what shots are coming up. You never get ahead of yourself. At the same time, you don't really think about what happened the previous holes. There are obviously times when if you're talking to your caddie, say we have 175, same type of wind direction that was say four holes ago and about the same yardage, that was an 85 percent 8-iron and it ended up here, so you can use that as strategies, but you're not sitting there and either being really excited about the four birdies you just had or being disappointed and down on yourself because you made whether a silly bogey or a double or a couple bogeys here or there. You always have to seem to stay in the present and forget about the good things and also bad things so you can basically put all your energy in each shot you're hitting.

**Q. Real quick, does that go for match play as well?**

**PATRICK REED:** No, not at all. Mentally, yes, but your strategy usually changes depending on what the guy you're playing has done and also at the same time where you are in the match, because you make 3, it doesn't matter if I make 4, I make 8, you only beat me by one, but in stroke play that 8 cannot happen.

**Q. Patrick, one of the reasons some people call this The Concussion golf course are the greens. How is putting and chipping them?**

**PATRICK REED:** For me I felt like putting was okay as long as you hit it in the correct sections of the greens. I was hitting putts from incorrect sections and they're doable on most holes, but the problem is when you miss the green, that -- it's really grainy, it's really tight and the banks are really steep where there's some of those chips that you think you can bump that just don't bounce and they come back to your feet. At the same time, if I hit a foot too far and it goes over the green and down another hill. It's definitely going to take some patience and creativity around the greens this week, but hopefully you're able to hit the ball well enough where you're not having to focus too much on having to chip around this place rather than hitting putts for birdie.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Patrick, that looks like about it for the day. We appreciate your time and thanks for joining us and good luck at your defense of the title here at a different venue.

**PATRICK REED:** Thanks, Mark. Appreciate it.