

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 24, 2021

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU



Q. (No microphone.)

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: No, I haven't.

Q. So you wouldn't know the differences between?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Not yet, but I'm sure the greens will be firmer and play faster and it will play shorter.

Q. As one of the only four players that have played a tournament here, Rahm, Xander, Scheffler and you, and you obviously won, can you take anything away from that that will help you this week?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Absolutely. I remember No. 8, it was my 17th hole the last day. I played the back nine first and I had to hit this 3-wood that I was not hitting good all week and I striped it on 17, my 17th hole, it was the eighth hole. I had to do it and I striped it and it gave me incredible confidence that even when I was hitting it bad, I could still play golf and win a tournament. That helped me in Memorial when I was hitting my driver bad, I'm sure it will help me this week.

Q. What are your memories from that week?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: I remember being on the practice range and when I heard the crowd go "Ohhh" because it lipped out or whatever. The team ran over and just dumped water on me because they knew I had won. That's my fondest memory right there.

I would say the other memory was on the eighth hole, my 17th hole of the day, when I struck that 3-wood, hit a wedge shot, I hit it too far, but luckily it ripped off the back and came to like a foot and made birdie. Then two-putted from like 60 feet on the ninth hole to have a chance to win this tournament. That was the moment that I knew I could play golf under pressure.

Q. I was going to say, winning that title, what does it do for a player? It's hard to have a career changer in college, but that basically was one?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: It is. It allows you the opportunity to play in Tour events, get sponsor exemptions. Clair Peterson was nice enough to give me one. Phil Cannon I remember, God rest his soul, they were amazing people that allowed me to play in their tournaments when it was the FedEx St. Jude Classic and now it's the WGC. Now also John Deere, I won there a few years later. Those opportunities were huge for me so it changed

my career entirely.

Q. How difficult is this golf course?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: If you're not hitting it well and straight off the tee, it's a concussion for a reason.

Q. And how long does it take you to get over L.A.? How long did it take you?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Oh, immediately. It's one of those things that I'm swinging so fast now that we just don't know what's going to happen yet. The physics aren't understood at that speed yet. You talk to Kyle -- I've talked to Kyle about it. I mean, his mis-hits when he barely mis-hits it, talking about variable gear effect, hit it in the same place on the toe and the ball can have two completely reactions. We don't know why that is yet and that's sort of the stuff I'm working on to try to figure out.

Now, at the lower speeds I was using a year ago and even there's sometimes that I just didn't drive it that well. The U.S. Open I didn't drive it well, so this has been going on for a long time and I knew we were going to come to this point at some point in time, but once we figure it out, it's going to be very, very nice. We're starting to understand a little bit, especially right now we're doing a lot of shaft stuff and head stuff and we're slowly inching to solving the problem, but it won't be for a while.

Q. Your second round, though, was much better than your first round.

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Even though I hit it everywhere.

Q. Did you take any confidence from that?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Again, knowing that I won't hit it that straight but I can still play the game. I mean, shoot, I think worst case scenario I can still hit hybrid or 4-irons off these tees all week and still compete and contend. 4-iron, 9-iron; 4-iron, 7-iron; 4-iron, 6-iron even, okay, not a big deal.

So if I can keep it in play and gain some of the confidence I had at Shriners and the U.S. Open last week or last year, excuse me, I'll be fine. I'm putting really well.

Q. Six years ago could you have imagined that you would be on this path that you are now?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Not at all, not at all. I didn't even know if I was going to be playing golf for the rest of my life before the NAAs.

Q. Really?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: No, I had no idea.

Q. You were a top 25 --

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: I was really good and I would have tried to play on Tour, but a lot of things got expedited when I won the NCAAs and the U.S. Amateur.

But no, I would not have expected this type of path, and albeit I'm glad for a lot of the things and very blessed for a lot of the things that have happened to me, I didn't know that there would be a lot of struggles along the way as well. I have to appreciate those tough moments because last week, very, very difficult moment for me. I was swinging really well and the ball just wasn't doing what it should have done. I felt like I held myself together really well. My attitude was something that I would have not been able to do as a kid, a younger self, so I'm very happy with the way I've grown and progressed. I think over time it will keep getting better. We all get frustrated and mad, but I'm very pleased with the way that I've held myself up the course of these past few years.

Q. How much did you weigh back then?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: I weighed 195.

Q. And now?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: I'm 230.

Q. That's it? You've lost some weight?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: I have lost weight.

Q. You actually do look slimmer.

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: I have the same strength. I haven't tried to push strength levels because it makes me really fatigued and tired. I'll do it in the offseason. That's why I came back at Sentry, I was a lot bigger, I looked bigger. But again, I'm just going to keep trying to gain muscle, size and strength and pushing the same tolerance levels throughout the week. I won't try to stress anything because I've got to play golf.

Q. How did you trim down?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Not eating as much, that's it. I'll still do two, three shakes a day, but then I just don't eat as much. A little more protein. The portions are smaller, that's all.

Q. No. 12, do you remember much about that hole?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Wasn't it a drivable par 4?

Q. And it looks like it's going to be drivable this week depending on setup. Do you recall what you did on that hole?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Yeah, I made eagle on one of the days.

Q. Did you go for it?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: I drove it, yep, yep. I hit a really great drive. I remember I heel cut it perfectly and it bounced and rolled up there to about like five feet and I made it for eagle one of the days, so that was fun. I don't think I went for it every day, but I think I might be going for it every day this week.

Q. How much longer are you now?

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: Oh, my gosh, I mean --

Q. You were long back then, though.

BRYSON DeCHAMBEAU: -- it was 170 ball speed. Now I'm just cruising at 190, 192. I've slowed down a little bit trying to understand some of the stuff that's going on. I can get it 200 real easily if I want to.