

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**February 27, 2021**

**PATRICK REED (-11)**



**Q. Patrick, kind of an up-and-down day today, a lot of good. How would you assess your round?**

**PATRICK REED:** It was a struggle. I would say I've had more kind of like head-scratching wedge shots this week that I feel like I've hit, trying to hit them and trying to hit my numbers and they seem to be a hair off. So obviously I need to work on my wedges a little bit.

Yeah, it's just one of those things that if you get yourself in the wrong spot around some of these greens, you're going to get penalized for it. The greens are obviously getting a little firmer out there throughout the week and areas where you feel like you could be aggressive and still kind of attack certain wedge shots, it's not quite happening.

It's just kind of one of those days that I've missed a couple putts, I felt like I hit good putts, and yet at the same time I hit a couple loose iron shots or tee shots that got me in trouble.

**Q. You weren't the only one to make a crooked number at 13 coming in. I was wondering what you thought of that hole and how you played it.**

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, it's an interesting one, especially around that green. I felt like I played it exactly how I was trying to. I hit the drive right where I wanted to, and hitting the iron shot in that green, I knew if I hit 4-iron I was probably going to go over the green, I knew that wasn't a good spot. So I was trying to hammer a 5 kind of just right of the tower, which I did and it just happened not to cover and ended up in the bunker. I'm sitting there going, that's a fine spot to be. When I hit the bunker shot, I actually thought I left it a little short because I felt like I spun it pretty good and it just didn't look like it was going to carry as far as I wanted it to. Next thing you know it just kind of skidded on me, kind of trickled, goes off the back. Then from there, yeah, it's a lot of fun where you know if it gets five feet past the hole, it's going off the green on the other side. It's one of those things that you feel like you hit three really good golf shots and you're staring at a very, very hard fourth. I wasn't able to get out of there without surrendering to a nice little 7.

The good thing is, because I felt like really the only poor shot would be my fourth shot I hit there. Besides that I was able to kind of rebound quickly and hit a really good tee shot on the next hole, gave myself a good look. My caddie and I both saw the putt going a hair left and if anything it stayed straight to go a hair right.

I think that was kind of the moral of the story today. We'd see kind of one thing or see more break or less break than was actually there because it was a lot of edges, rather than the last two days it's been a lot of putts going in.

**Q. Do you remember any other courses where -- you're only playing your round, but there's a lot more guys with three and four chips on certain holes here than most weeks. Can you remember any other courses with as many of those?**

**PATRICK REED:** No, not really. The only one I could have thought was I think during the U.S. Am at Pinehurst when I played, it was pretty brutal around the greens. A lot of those it seemed like when the ball rolled off, it'd kind of get to the rough and so you could -- you had some cushion underneath it so you're okay. Here, there is no cushion. And you have to have perfect strike, but at the same time when you're landing into that big of a slope with that much grain around this place and how quick the grain changes from where the ball bounces to, it's hard to get the ball close.

For the most part this week I felt like I've been doing a pretty good job on it. 13 obviously bit me pretty hard today, but besides that it's just kind of one of those things, you have to take your medicine whenever you have a shot.

**Q. Because there is so much disaster lurking on every hole, is this a good course to chase on?**

**PATRICK REED:** Yeah, you know, definitely wish I would have made that last putt and got a little closer to the lead, but it's definitely a course that no lead is big enough to kind of be safe because anything can happen. I mean, you hit a wayward -- especially towards the end, depending where the pin is on 13, 14's a great par 3 and you miss that green you're going to struggle. 15 you have to hit a good tee shot, same thing with 16.

At the same time, those are two holes if you hit good tee shots, you're setting yourself up with a wedge in your hand so you're going to be able to attack. And 17, depending how aggressive you can be, you might be able to get 3 there. And 18, obviously with a good tee shot there you still have a mid to long iron into the green. It's one of those that a lot can happen, especially towards the end of this golf course. You kind of have to get off to a fast start and kind of put the pressure on them early.

**Q. From a pro's perspective, what are a couple shots out there that the viewer at home can't even understand how difficult it is?**

**PATRICK REED:** Second shot into 13 and second shot into 7. Those two shots alone on the par 5s. Second shot into 7, if you barely miss and you miss it in the wrong spot, you could basically be doing what you're doing on 13, starting chipping around the green depending where the flag is. 13 today where that pin was on that left side, it's just brutal. I don't know if anyone was able to get it within 20 feet on their second shot.

**Q. Rory did, but it was a --**

**PATRICK REED:** Did he?

**Q. It was a mistakes.**

**PATRICK REED:** Mistake or not, he still got it inside 20 feet. It's unbelievable.

It's one of those things that you think there, missing it just short's a good miss, but I hit the shot I thought was perfect and ends up going over the back. It's one of those things you always have to pay attention to around this golf course. Just something we've got to the tighten up especially on those two. When you step up on two golf shots and you know, you sit there and go all right, well, there's no real trouble left or right as in hazards or anything like that, yet you sit there and go, I can't go left, I can't go right, can't be short, can't be long. It's set up to hit a perfect golf shot. It's one of those, even with hitting the perfect golf shot, if you hit the wrong bounce, you could be in trouble. I think that's what makes this place fun to play is the fairways are pretty generous, but at the same time, you have to put the ball on the correct side of the fairways in order to attack.

And greens are wide, are large but they play small because there's a lot of run-offs, a lot of slopes. Definitely have to be on with ball-striking. If not, you have to wear out your short game.

**Q. Do you want a Tour event every year?**

**PATRICK REED:** This place is fun, I've enjoyed it. Today was not as enjoyable as it has been this week, but the thing is, you want this golf course to get harder and harder each and every day and it seems to be doing that. The golf course keeps on getting a little firmer, a little faster. It's just one of those that you have to play from the short grass, you have to attack.