

THE BAHAMAS GREAT ABACO CLASSIC AT THE ABACO CLUB

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
January 22, 2023



BRANDON HARKINS (-2)

BRANDON HARKINS: It's blowing a lot harder it seems like this year than last, but good to be back for sure and definitely some good memories.

Q. I mean, when you were here like a year ago, did you ever think like this was a place you would be able to like just vacation, be like a member at, do all this stuff?

BRANDON HARKINS: Not at all. I mean, I had no clue that was even a part of winning until after the fact. Darren Clarke said something to me on the 18th green last year and I thought wow, that's pretty cool. But it's been great. We've only been able to come down once so far, but yeah, it's hard to beat this place, it's beautiful.

Q. Have you like talked to Darren at all since or asked how to get down here, what to do, everything?

BRANDON HARKINS: Not so much that. We have had a few beers together and he's great, he's an awesome guy to be around. I can see why he calls this place home, it's pretty sweet.

Q. And then today when it's blowing like this, like how does that change the complexion of like how you play this course?

BRANDON HARKINS: Quite a bit. I mean, it's pumping pretty good today. The greens are super undulated and there's a lot going on. I think you've just got to kind of control your misses if you can. For me at least it's making sure my misses are not so short-sided and mainly pitching back into the wind, that's pretty key out here. It's awesome. It's kind of just like working quadrants on the greens, so if you can figure that out, you can get through it.

Q. As you look back maybe a little bit on like last year, did anything change for you mentally like after the win that maybe you put like any unnecessary pressure on yourself or like anything that resulted in just kind of being on the short side of the stick at the end of the year?

BRANDON HARKINS: No, I don't think so. You know, by my standards I kind of had a slow year, so take one -- I had a good week here obviously, but other than that, it was a slow year. It's golf, it happens. It's great to be back, you know, and still playing golf. I can't complain about a ton.

Q. And then some extra spots this year, the changes. I mean, as someone who's played Canada, PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour, I mean, what's your kind of take on everything that's kind of changed on the tour?

BRANDON HARKINS: I haven't followed it that closely, but it's great. There's five more cards out here this year and it doesn't really change anything at least from my side of the bag, from my perspective. Just keep your head down and play hard all year.

But it's great that there's five more cards up for grabs. Moving forward, I think that's a good thing.

Q. And for No. 18 out here specifically, you played it a little more than some other folks last year, talk about just that hole, the challenges it presents, the opportunities it presents and everything about it.

BRANDON HARKINS: So you're elevated, it's an elevated tee ball and it's so wind dependent, direction dependent, I guess. Like today it was straight in pretty much, straight in on the left a little bit. So you're sitting up there and it's a little bit daunting because, you know, any sidespin on the ball it's going offline quick. If you can get it in play off that tee, you have options, you have options on your layup, and if you can get it far enough down there, you can go for it.

Q. Then the hat, obviously big game today. I mean, what's the season been like as a Niner's fan?

BRANDON HARKINS: It's been great. It was a slow start, they were 3-4, but haven't lost since, knock on wood. I see them winning tonight in a tight game.

Q. Who's the like party for the game tonight?

BRANDON HARKINS: Just the guys who I'm staying with in the house. You know, a little nervy, but I think it will be a good game. It will be a tight game for sure.

Q. Did you think that Mr. Irrelevant would have the season that he's having now?

BRANDON HARKINS: No chance. I didn't even know -- I mean, I didn't think he was going to be playing, but he's doing great. He's been fun to watch, especially coming in, stepping into not only Trey Lance's shoes but Garoppolo's shoes, but he's stepped up in a big way, it's been great.

Q. If you could swap jerseys with one player on the Niners, who are you trading with?

BRANDON HARKINS: Gosh, I think it would be cool to be Nick Bosa, try and chase some quarterbacks around, that would be fun.

