

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW

June 24, 2023



PADRAIG HARRINGTON (-9)

Q. Paddy, just takeaways from Round 2?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, some better stuff than -- I struck the ball well yesterday, but I really made some bad decisions on the golf course. I was clearly mentally tired from last week, it obviously took more out of me than I suspected. I was better that way today, scored quite well. Had five nice eagle -- four nice eagle chances I think during the round, so there was obviously going to be a decent score going off the back of that.

But it was nice to hole a 20-footer on the last. I'm two shots back at the moment. If I held three shots I suppose it's reasonable, but no matter what, if I didn't make those two birdies coming home, I definitely would have been too far back tomorrow.

Q. Do you like to be leading or chasing going into the final round?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: It's easier chasing, mentally easier chasing. Clearly I'd rather have the lead and be out in front, but when you're chasing, nobody really knows -- if you go out there and play well, great, and if you don't, nobody really sees that so much.

It's always, it's a lot less stress being the chaser, but clearly you want to have that lead and have the chances. Like whoever -- like if Ernie can get to say 14 under, gives himself so many options to win tomorrow. Like maybe he couldn't get away -- like he could get away with playing average at 14 under and still win the tournament.

So yeah, you want to be in the lead because it gives you the options to win, but it's obviously a little bit -- it's always uncomfortable when you're out in front.

Q. Do you want to give just a shout-out to the green team and agronomy team for what 18 looks like after last night?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yeah, this is the thing with the greenkeeper and his staff, they always do a great job. As the players, we turn up, that's what we expected. We need one greenkeeper to turn up and do a bad job some stage, to leave a mess behind when a storm comes in and then we'll all go, oh, that's actually what it should be like.

No, they've done a fantastic job obviously throughout the golf course. There was some rain yesterday and then obviously with the concert last night. Everything is in tip top shape.



Q. Last year we asked about being in a competitive group and how that helps you and I think you said a rising tide lifts all ships. What about being in a competitive group kind of ups your play?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Look, when you see it being done, you think it's possible, you know. Guys are holing putts, you feel like you can hole putts. If everybody's three-putting and struggling, it makes you cautious. Definitely seeing good shots in front of you is a big help.

Kevin played particularly well today, so he led the team out. It's strange, he actually ended up shooting two shots worse than myself and Thongchai and he played way better than us, but golf can be funny like that.

