

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 15, 2024

PATRICK CANTLAY (-7)



Q. Patrick, how would you characterize the round?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, I thought it was good. Obviously got off to a great start. Our group had good momentum, Jordan and I were a bunch under on the front nine and, you know, a day where I putted really, really well, made every putt I should have and a couple longer ones. It was a good start.

Q. Yeah, obviously not the start you probably wanted this year putting. Is there anything that maybe changed that might have led to the good day today?

PATRICK CANTLAY: No. I mean, I think I'm really comfortable around this place. Greens are really good. This is probably the best condition I've seen Riviera. You know, it's a place I'm really comfortable.

Q. I only saw on TV the second shot on 16, I've never seen anyone off the tee short --

PATRICK CANTLAY: Neither have I.

Q. You hit a tree, I assume?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I did.

Q. Happy with the outcome? What did you have left coming in and was there any part of you that was concerned about a really good round kind of getting lost on one hole?

PATRICK CANTLAY: You know, I got up and down for bogey, it was a good up-and-down. Obviously a spot I've never been. I've been on most places on this golf course, but started off today eight birdies and one bogey, great start.

Q. Did you have to laser the shot or step it off?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I didn't laser it. Don't have me step in something here. We don't even carry the laser on game days.

Q. Did you have to walk it off, the yardage?

PATRICK CANTLAY: No, I just chunked it in the bunker.

Q. Patrick do you know in your life how many course records you have shot?



PATRICK CANTLAY: I don't. I've got a couple.

Q. Do you know how many you have?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I don't. A couple.

Q. Do you ever out here allow yourself to think about an ideal like that?

PATRICK CANTLAY: No, it's not really front of mind, just --

Q. Not even back of mind?

PATRICK CANTLAY: No, no, not thinking about course records. I don't even know what the course record is around this place.

Q. Sixty-one.

PATRICK CANTLAY: Yeah, I didn't really scare it today.

No, I'm just out there really trying to focus each and every shot. I know it's cliché, but that's the truth.

Q. Is this -- the 72-hole record here has stood longer than any other tournament, active tournament on Tour. Why do you think that is and does that surprise you at all?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Probably a testament to the design, and they've added length over the years, so I'm not sure what year --

Q. '85.

PATRICK CANTLAY: So I bet the golf course played shorter in '85 --

Q. It rained that week, too.

PATRICK CANTLAY: -- than it does now. Like I'll tell anyone that asks, I think it's one of the best if not the best design we play all year. It's one of my favorite golf courses, this and Royal Melbourne, of all the golf courses I've ever played.

Q. Kind of on those lines we saw last week and I lost track of it myself, 57s, 60, 59, Wyndham the week before. Should anyone be surprised by this I guess if you look at the big picture of golf and I guess scores have been coming down from the 50s to the 60s, et cetera. How low can it go or should it go?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Well, I don't know how much lower than 57. I know they played in



Bogota on a very, very short golf course, it's like 7,000 feet. Actually won a Web.com event in Bogota.

Q. That was your win?

PATRICK CANTLAY: On the Web tour, yeah, 2013 or '14.

Q. Was a it that same deal, the Pacos and the Lagos?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I think it's a different course, I don't think it was 6,300 yards. You know, the conditions are getting better, guys are getting better and guys are also playing more aggressively. So you almost have to these days. And I think most guys travel, or I shouldn't say travel, but most guys have a statistician look over their stuff and in general it skews more aggressive that the gains are worth it. It's not too surprising.

Q. Is it good or bad for the game and as an entertainment?

PATRICK CANTLAY: I wouldn't even characterize it as good or bad, I think it just is. The Tiger effects, you see it this week, you've seen it for the last 15 years. Young kids are growing up with better information, more drive and they've been emulating him for over a decade now. So I think that's led to a generation of golfers that as a whole are better.

Q. There's good money now, too?

PATRICK CANTLAY: There is.

Q. I wanted to ask, when the rollback stuff first came, out you said you wanted to hear more about it, you wanted to ask people. I guess sort of dovetailing off Doug's questions, do you think these low scores, scoring records getting broken, does it kind of change your mind a little bit or do you start to see the other side?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Not at all. I don't think it would be good for the game. I think more people are excited about golf now more than ever hearing some of the numbers that there's been more rounds played in the last year than ever before in this country. I think that's fantastic and I know it's growing worldwide as well. That should be the emphasis.

Q. Patrick, you said that using numbers can make you more aggressive. Can you give some examples maybe even around here of where your studies and other people's studies have been --

PATRICK CANTLAY: Sure. The 10th hole is I think the best case study. In the past people laid up. I think it was maybe 10 or 15 years ago the numbers were 50/50 and now I think the numbers are darn near 100 percent. You can just tell by looking at the numbers that the guys that go for the green have a lower scoring average. So by making that decision, you're saving 1/3 of a shot or you're saving 2/10 of a shot. You add those up over the course of a



week, it's hard not to make that decision.

Q. That's a fairly common example. Can you think of another one that on this golf course that you get a green light now that you maybe wouldn't have before?

PATRICK CANTLAY: Good question. I know 10 for sure. I think it's even like a wedge shot into the third hole, you know. I left it behind the hole. I didn't actually make the putt, but I left it on the short-side. I think in the past old school mode of thinking would be feed it in from the middle of the green. When I'm getting to 130 yards, I'm trying to hit it about as close as I can.

