

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES
March 10, 2024



BRICE GARNETT (-19, won playoff)

DOUG MILNE: We would like to proudly welcome the winner of the 2024 Puerto Rico Open, Brice Garnett.

Brice, could not be happier for you. I've known you for a long time and nothing makes me happier. 19 under, kind of got the job done. It took four extra holes after that to get it done, but you got it done nonetheless. Congratulations on the win. Just a few opening thoughts.

BRICE GARNETT: Thank you, thanks for the kind words.

Just an outstanding week from the time I got here. I was excited to be here, I was thankful to be here. I wasn't sure when my next PGA TOUR start was going to come and I was kind of gearing up for this one. I think I told you earlier in the week, this is my Augusta. It didn't get me in Augusta. I guess maybe I should put in for a special exemption, but it is a wonderful week for me that opens all kinds of new doors for a 40-year-old Tour vet.

DOUG MILNE: Among those is a start next week at THE PLAYERS Championship. Just a few initial thoughts on how much that means to you. Obviously there's a lot of perks that come with winning the Puerto Rico Open, but you're now in THE PLAYERS Championship. How exciting is that?

BRICE GARNETT: It's unbelievable. It's my favorite tournament of the year. It's two hours from Valdosta, Georgia, where I live. I love the golf course, I love everything about the golf tournament. It will be a little whirlwind the next couple days, but I'm all for it and we cannot wait to get there and play that golf tournament.

DOUG MILNE: And when I talked to you earlier in the week, you kind of sheepishly said this is my first start of the season. What was your mindset like coming into the week, and then as you kind of crept up the leaderboard, did that mindset change at all?

BRICE GARNETT: No, not really at all. I didn't look at a leaderboard the last two days. You know, I've been playing these little four-day mini tournaments at home the last two weeks focusing on getting to 12 to 18 under in those four days. We got to 12 after 36, and then once we got to 18 with a few holes left, I told my caddie, Chris, let's get to 21. Kind of kept moving that target.

Yeah, definitely the mindset, I came here to win the golf tournament and it's probably something I need to do more often in the near future.

DOUG MILNE: And Erik obviously hung in there quite well. He's amazing, just one bogey

all week. He hung in there, he sank some putts. How much pressure did that put on you?

BRICE GARNETT: Gosh, I just wanted to play a different playoff hole. I got tired of watching him hit it so far down the middle of the fairway and then I had to lay up every time. We just stuck to our game plan.

That's amazing, Erik, one bogey on the week. He's a great player, great guy. I know he's battled through a few injuries the last year or so, but it's a great week for him and I'm sure he's looking to build on it.

DOUG MILNE: Do we have any questions here?

Q. How can you manage to secure (inaudible)?

BRICE GARNETT: We just, we stuck to our game plan. I was right there around 300 yards to the front of the green every playoff hole and that's just too far for me to try to push a 3-wood up there. So I just continued to lay up to a really good wedge number. I hit some really good wedges in there.

And then the fourth hole is the exact same putt I had on the first playoff hole, so I knew exactly what the putt did and I just had to hit it a little bit harder the second go-round.

Q. What was the most challenging thing in this tournament?

BRICE GARNETT: The wind was definitely something that's challenging every time we come here, but it's something I always look forward to. I grew up playing in a lot of wind and it's the reason that I really love to come play in the Puerto Rico Open. Yeah, it was a good challenge this week.

Q. This is not your first time here.

BRICE GARNETT: No.

Q. But it is your first championship. How does it feel?

BRICE GARNETT: It's great. I believe it's my eighth or ninth year, eighth year maybe. We love coming here every year. The people the great, the food's great and my first PGA TOUR victory came next door in the Dominican Republic, so there's something about island golf and this type of grass that I really like.

Q. You were talking about the (inaudible.) What goes through your mind when you are not able to finish the game?

BRICE GARNETT: Yeah, well, at one point I told Chris, I'm like jeez, I'm tired of Erik just hitting it so far past me. He said the worst we can do is second. So it was exciting for us to

win, but it just wasn't much pressure playing the playoff. It was life changing, yes, but it was still going to be a good week regardless of what happened in the playoff.

Q. And your plans are going to be coming next year and you are try to be the first player to win back to back?

BRICE GARNETT: Well, that would be special, so we'll just have to see where my schedule takes me. Yeah, if I'm available to come back, I'm definitely going to come back and defend this thing.

Q. And after this tournament, what's next for you, the next tournament?

BRICE GARNETT: Yeah, we'll go to THE PLAYERS next week in Ponte Vedre, and then I'm sure -- I really love playing in Tampa at the Valspar. Then I might take a little bit of time off. I have a big spring break trip planned with my family and another family to Turks and Caicos in about a month, so we're excited about that. We're just going to celebrate this for a while.

Q. Will you send a message to the Puerto Rican fans that were rooting for you every single time?

BRICE GARNETT: Yeah, Puerto Rican fans have been amazing. Like I said, I got to play with Rafa yesterday and the crowds were awesome, so supportive. It's just great to see Rafa play well and bring people out here. And then during the playoff it was awesome, the whole grandstands were completely full and the energy was there late into the evening. We appreciate all the support and all the hospitality from all the fans here.

Q. The Dominican Republic is a special place for you, now Puerto Rico?

BRICE GARNETT: Exactly, these are two very special places for me. We'll definitely remember Puerto Rico and this golf course and the people and we'll cherish every minute of it.

Q. On the last hole you chose to putt first.

BRICE GARNETT: I was away. Even though he was off the green, I was a few feet away, further away than he was. It's kind of a welcoming putt because the first one in the hole adds a little bit of pressure to the next guy. I fully expected Erik to make that putt. I think he hit a good putt, it just kind of slid over the edge.

Q. Congratulations from Puerto Rico. We would like to ask you about your consistency. We see that you really have a lot of consistency with shots.

BRICE GARNETT: Yeah, that's my whole game. I'm not a young spring chicken anymore. I hit it plenty far, but not as far as a lot of these kids nowadays. I rely heavily on hitting

fairways, hitting a lot of greens and having a good short game. It's been very challenging because the game is changing so fast with young kids coming out and ready to win, but I guess there's still a little bit of room for a 40-year-old out here.

Q. The other thing I can see is you were mostly in the same spot. Did you plan on doing it that way?

BRICE GARNETT: Yeah, it was just, it was too far for me to try to hit 3-wood, get the ball up by that green, so we just decided to lay up to a comfortable wedge number that I like, one that kind of flew just over the ridge and would feed down to the hole.

Q. What was that number?

BRICE GARNETT: That number was around 115 today. It was playing about 10 yards of help, so it was around a full 100 to 105 yard shot. It was a 58-degree wedge, lob wedge.

DOUG MILNE: I've got two more questions and we'll cut you loose to go start the celebration.

Number one, with the win you pick up 300 FedExCup points. You are in, like I said, THE PLAYERS Championship, other select events. You're also going to Maui in 2025 for the Sentry. Beyond THE PLAYERS, I know that's on your mind right now, beyond that, has all that sunk in?

BRICE GARNETT: No, not at all. I really haven't thought about any of that. It was just a week where I was trying to come compete and get myself at the top of the leaderboard to be put in the shuffle of the 126-to-150 and potentially grab a few more starts in the middle of the summer. It turned out to be one of the best weeks of my career.

DOUG MILNE: Wonderful. And that leads me to my last question. Not trying to sound too dramatic here, but obviously golf is very, very mental, emotionally high and low game. I've known you for a long time, you've always seemed to kind of keep yourself even keel.

How much work did you have to put in, have you had to put in of late to keep convincing yourself that you can continue to do this and you can in fact win again?

BRICE GARNETT: Yeah, it takes a lot. There's a lot of people that factor into that. My caddie, Chris, he believes in me probably more than he believes in any golfer out here and that's all I can ask from him.

My wife, Suzan, and Milli at home continue to tell me each day and each week how blessed we are as a family and how blessed I am to play this game now that I'm 40 years old that I still love. Yeah, I've always been kind of flatline at times, that's just who I am, but it worked out.

DOUG MILNE: It did, indeed. Any other questions? Well, Brice, I couldn't be more proud of you, couldn't be happier for you, no one I'd rather be sitting next to here now than you, so congratulations.

BRICE GARNETT: Thank you so much.