## ROUND 2 INTERVIEW October 29, 2021

## PATRICK RODGERS (-10)



## Q. A scorable day out here on this golf course. How did you take advantage of it?

**PATRICK RODGERS:** Yeah, I've never seen Bermuda this calm, at least here at Port Royal. Yeah, I felt like it was a round where we needed to take advantage of it and I just did a great job of staying patient and giving myself a ton of opportunities. I didn't feel like I was overly aggressive at any point today and I just kind of plodded along. I think I hit 17 greens, so I just kept giving myself chance after chance and it added up to a great day.

Q. Chip-ins are helpful, but there's a lot of chuckling out there. I think Michael had a pretty good day off the greens, but you had to get in the action there on --

**PATRICK RODGERS:** Yeah, yeah, Michael chipped in I think four times in eight or nine holes, which was pretty amazing. So I hit it just off the green there on 7. Said, "Hey, let's chip it like Michael here," and found the bottom. Always good to get a little fortunate break to go my way.

Q. They always say the waves balance out through the course of the year. How much grief did you get from guys who played early yesterday because, man, what a luck of the draw this week from what those guys had to face yesterday morning?

**PATRICK RODGERS:** I tried not to talk to anyone who played in the morning yesterday. Yeah, it happens to us all the time. Fortunate to be on the good side of it hopefully this week, obviously yesterday. Hopefully they get some good conditions to score and an opportunity to compete this afternoon.

Q. You got off to a good start in Napa. What do you like about your game right now that you can carry into the weekend?

**PATRICK RODGERS:** It's been a heck of a summer. It's the first time I had to grind to keep my card after just missing the Playoffs. That was a really just difficult emotional battle. I felt a huge weight lifted off my shoulders since coming back. I don't feel like there's much that can stress me out on a golf course at the minute and I'm just really grateful to have opportunities to play. So, yeah, I'm excited to be here. It's our little slice of paradise here this week, so it's easy to enjoy ourselves and I think that translates into some great golf.

Q. To that point, I saw you take a moment there on 8 and just look down at the water, that turquoise blue. You talk about focus, but how do you then relish the opportunity of the moment to just kind of take a second to say, "Wow, how cool is this?"

PATRICK RODGERS: Yeah, I think gratitude is important. I think to be quite honest with you there have been times where I've lost sight of how amazing it is to be on the PGA TOUR. The grind of this summer trying to fight to keep my card, I really had to kind of learn to understand what it meant to me. Like I said, I'm carrying a lot more gratitude going forward, which is awesome. And like I said, Bermuda is one of the most beautiful places in the world and just a spectacular destination, so it's just amazing to be here regardless of playing the tournament.

Q. Round of the day, round of the week, that 64 (inaudible). Can you just walk us through the eagle?

**PATRICK RODGERS:** Yeah, I didn't hit my best iron shot, but a great tee shot set me up in a great position and just missed the green there, but it was really close to the hole. And Michael Kim, my playing partner, had chipped in four times in eight holes, so I just tried to channel a little bit of what he was using today and lucky it found the bottom.

Q. You're leading the field in greens in regulation, 17 for 18 today, but I am curious given the different conditions, was it better than 13 for 18 yesterday?

**PATRICK RODGERS:** Yeah, I mean yesterday was a challenge. Obviously it was a little more scorable as the day went on, but you sort of learn to expect that kind of breeze out here. Yeah, today obviously was much more scorable, but just good patient ball control both rounds and I'm really pleased about that.

Q. You've been very consistent throughout your career on the PGA TOUR, but this season and this year was different; you finished 128th on the final FedExCup points list, had to go through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. Talk about how that experience impacted you.

**PATRICK RODGERS:** Yeah, it was really difficult to go through, to be honest with you. My mindset and I think the mindset of most players out here is that I got my card at 22 and I didn't feel like I would ever be in that position, to be quite honest with you. I felt like I had the game to not put myself there and it was maybe a little slice of humble pie, and more so just kind of managing stress on the golf course. I really wasn't that far off most of last summer, I had plenty of chances to be in contention, I just never kind of walked through that door. I'm definitely feeling like I'm able to breathe a breath of fresh air here as the new season started. I'm really grateful to be out here and I'm playing some stress-free golf, which is nice.

Q. What a difference a day makes. Talk to me about the difference yesterday to today. More trust in your shots, I would imagine, without the gusts and the winds?

**PATRICK RODGERS:** Yeah, the conditions were much more scorable. I think even just looking at the forecast, I knew that there was going to be a decent round out there. Some of the into-the-wind holes, you know, were a lot more scorable, and just being able to have control over your distance and control over your trajectory was really nice. I mean, they set

up the golf course even a little bit tougher. There's still some pretty tough shots out there, 16's playing 230 yards straight into the wind, but yeah, I was really proud of my ball control. I hit a lot of greens and had a ton of chances, so it was a good round, well-earned today.

## Q. I guess huge confidence for tomorrow as well?

**PATRICK RODGERS:** Yeah, for sure. I think you always have to be ready for unpredictable conditions out here. I'm sure we'll get some more wind and possibly some rain, so just a really long week of golf and I'm excited to be positioned well going into the weekend.