

BRENDON TODD (-24)

DOUG MILNE: We will go ahead and get started. I'm honored to be here for the first inaugural Bermuda Championship and to introduce the first winner of the Bermuda Championship, Brendon Todd.

Brendon, you win it in convincing fashion, what an incredible start today with birdies on nine of your first 10 holes for a 9-under 62. I know it's been a long road back for you and obviously it's paying off really well with the result of today. You move to No. 17 in the FedExCup standings with the win and not to mention the other perks that come with it, the Maui in January, Sentry Tournament of Champions, PLAYERS Championship. You beat me to it. With that, I'll just turn it over to you on just collecting your win at the inaugural Bermuda Championship.

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, I'm thrilled, over the moon. Like I told the guys earlier, a year ago I was talking to my manager about potentially opening up another business and not sure if I was going to keep playing. So to turn it around in one year and regain status and then have a big win this like this is just a dream come true and hopefully a springboard to a really long, successful career out here.

DOUG MILNE: I know if I could take you back to 2015 BMW, I read that that's kind of where you pinpointed that to the first part of -- I don't quite know how to term it.

BRENDON TODD: The yips.

DOUG MILNE: Okay. If you could just take us back to that, exactly where that was during the third round, I think it was, and just kind of the Cliff Notes version of the progression.

BRENDON TODD: Cliff Notes, okay. So yeah, the fourth hole, maybe it was the third hole. I think it was the third hole of Saturday's round at the BMW. I wasn't real happy with how I was hitting it a few weeks earlier, so my teacher, Scott Hamilton, and I kind of changed my swing and closed my clubface going back and I started hitting it real nice.

I got to the BMW there at Conway Farms, I think I shot 68-63, 11 under and I was in the last group with Jason Day and maybe Alex Noren. I can't really remember who the third was. It was obviously a big moment for me. I had kind of built up to it I was playing real well, had a good couple years.

Just for one reason or another, I hit this 4-iron, it was the fourth hole, hit it 50 yards right like past the bushes, into another set of pushes and I made a seven. Just kind of shook me a little bit.

And then the shot kind of kept reappearing throughout the fall schedule there. I played Napa and Vegas and a couple -- Sea Island. I mean, I lost golf balls, I was hitting in hazards and hitting it right. A lot of it was mental, some of it was the fact that I changed my swing and I basically battled that scary yip right feeling all of '16. And even if I had a tournament where I didn't hit it, I was so scared of hitting it I would hit it to the left and I would chip and putt my way to 72 and I missed a thousand cuts.

Then you're trying to find whether it's a new teacher or a new method or whatever it is. I basically spent '16, '17, '18 doing that. It didn't really matter who I worked with because I hadn't taken enough time off, I think, to like calm my mind and just get away from it and say okay, what did I do when I did play good. For some reason I just couldn't figure out what it was.

So I was fortunate there at the end of '18, when I basically wasn't sure if I was going to keep playing, I had gone to see a new teacher, Bradley Hughes, who played out here and started teaching and my old college teammate told me to read his book or check his website out.

So I read his book and booked a lesson. He kind of freed me up and gave me a couple drills to do. I took six weeks off and didn't play golf and did some drills in my basement. That really helped. It just coincided with an old caddie on the Nationwide Tour at the time, Ward Jarvis, called me and was like, look, man, I think I know what you're going through, I'm a stutterer, I have the same sort of mental breakdown that you have. He's like, I think there's away for us to work through it together.

So he had me read this book that Rick Ankiel wrote. Rick Ankiel's kind of famous for being one of the most talented young baseball players and he got -- he was in the major leagues and he was a great pitcher and he got in his first playoff game and he had like six passed balls past the catcher, like the most anybody's ever thrown in one game. He basically just like fell off the map with pitching, had to reinvent himself as an outfielder.

So anyways, it was a book about the yips. I read it, it kind of helped. And then I just continued to work with Ward and Brad on my game and I was fortunate to qualify for the RSM in the fall, shot a 61 that day to get in, made the cut, got some momentum going. Then through my 10 or 12 events out here this year, I was able to qualify for the Korn Ferry Finals. Then went through there, had a second place at the Scarlet course and got my card back and here I am now.

DOUG MILNE: Well, with that, we'll take a few questions.

Q. Can you take us through your first nine holes and then walking up the 18th, what was going through your mind, your emotions.

BRENDON TODD: Yeah, definitely. Man, the front, it was actually the first 11, I think I birdied nine of the first 11. You know, I had probably one of the best range warm-ups I've

had in a little while. I think I told my caddie that's the best my swing's felt in 10 years, but in reality it's probably the best it's felt ever because I'm a much better ball-striker than I was 10 years ago and in college and even during the times where I was winning tournaments. My goal was just to go out there and play my game, play aggressively, and just fire away, try and birdie every hole.

The first hole, I hit a great shot in there. I had 20 feet and it lipped out. It looked like it was going to break left and it didn't go in. Then I just stuck it on the next hole, made a 10-footer on three, hit a 5-iron to two feet on four, hit it to three feet on five. Six, I think I hit it in there to eight feet or 10 feet and made it. Hit it on the green in two on seven, made a birdie. Hit a 6-iron 10 feet on eight and made birdie. On nine I made an awesome putt from 20 feet and it burned the edge. Three feet on 10, three feet on 11. So literally hadn't missed a shot through 11 holes and I didn't really miss one until maybe 16 or 17. I just hit it great today. It was fun.

Q. Coming off the 18th?

BRENDON TODD: Eighteen, you know, I had a few things on my mind. I mean, with two or three to play I was trying to shoot 59, so I had to play a little more conservatively on 17 just because there's no reason to give anything back, so I didn't make birdie there.

Pretty much knew 59 was out the window, but I was still playing smart and laid it back off the tee. Then I missed the green left and then I'm like, well, I want to shoot a bogey-free 61 today. I wanted to hit a good pitch there. Unfortunately, on 18 I was a little -- I wasn't maybe as excited as I should have been because I had some other goals in mind. Either way, I'm excited and I felt like I accomplished a lot this week playing that well and beating this field. Playing a round like that is always pretty special.

Q. Congratulations. What will you go away and tell people about Bermuda is part of my question, and the second part is what advice do you have for our young Bermudian, Kenny Leseur, who at 15 qualified to play on the PGA TOUR this week?

BRENDON TODD: Well, I'll definitely walk away and tell people how beautiful Bermuda is. It's an amazing island out in the middle of the ocean that's not that difficult to get to, worth the visit, the people are really nice, it seems very clean, there's lots to do in Hamilton. So really it's a special place. It's a place you want to go on vacation, it's a place you want to visit. So that's what I would convey back to people. My parents honeymooned here and vacationed here at least once. I knew it was going to be nice when I came. I would say it actually exceeded expectations just by how clean and nice everything is here.

Then the 15-year-old, what's his name?

Q. Kenny Leseur.

BRENDON TODD: Well, that's a special accomplishment, something that probably nobody

in this field has actually ever done. He should definitely put a feather in his cap for that.

I would just encourage him to pursue the game with passion because he loves it and, you know, try to maybe set some plans for how he wants to pursue his career, if he wants to go play college golf or if he wants to turn pro, find a coach or stick with the coach you have and just stick with your process and go after it.

Q. A year ago this week you were at second stage and you missed, but you shot a final round 63 and then made the cut in your next start. Was that final round, was there some good that came from that despite missing it?

BRENDON TODD: Absolutely, no doubt. Just the whole week. The thing I always tell people about the problem for me when I miss cuts out here is I don't get to play four rounds and I build so much confidence from playing on the weekends and I lose so much confidence by shooting 72s on Thursday that I'm like bipolar out here. When I make cuts, I go crazy and play great, and when I miss cuts, I'm the worst player out here.

I knew going into second stage, I mean I had been there the last three years, so the fortunate thing for me is getting to play four rounds, I knew going into it, all right, you don't have to shoot 63 the first round, you've just got to put yourself in the hunt and then see if you can finish it off. That week I played great the last day and it just so happened that it wasn't good enough. But I took a lot of confidence from it, was able to go on Monday and shoot 9-under 61 at Brunswick to qualify for the RSM. So I shot back-to-back 9-unders and I think that was big for me here in that, having a win, having some money in the bank, having the ups and downs I've had, there wasn't a lot of pressure on me here. Nobody's expecting me to win, I'm not expecting to win, I'm just going out trying to repeat those good feelings I had a year ago and those rounds.

Q. And how does the nerves of second stage compare to the nerves like here down the stretch on Sunday?

BRENDON TODD: Well, for me, being 33 at second stage and having played seven or eight Q-schools wasn't really a big deal. Assume people think it's going to get tighter as you go, so fortunately I've won so I always have something to fall back on, you know what I mean? For guys that don't have anything to fall back on it's probably just really uncomfortable for them, but I'm more nervous trying to win a PGA TOUR event than I am at second stage of Q-School. Winning on Tour is what we all strive to do. Like I said yesterday to somebody, I've only had one 54-hole lead and I converted it. My problem's always been getting the lead, not finishing it off.

Q. You had had one comeback from struggles before about a decade ago when you missed, I think, a bunch of cuts.

BRENDON TODD: Right.

Q. Did that comeback from that help in the second comeback knowing that you had gone through those type of struggles and got back on top?

BRENDON TODD: It did, yeah. Definitely I had some experience with it and knew that once I kind of get things right, I just have to believe and keep going after it.

Q. So how does it feel when you win a tournament, the inaugural event and you're the first champion ever of it? Does that feel a little extra special to you?

BRENDON TODD: Yeah. We came to a golf course that none of us have ever seen and I was able to go out there and figure it out and execute the shots and play spectacular golf. Always be the first Bermuda champion, so I'm excited.

DOUG MILNE: Brendon, congratulations.

BRENDON TODD: Thanks, Doug.