

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
November 1, 2020



BRIAN GAY (-15, won 1st playoff hole)

DOUG MILNE: We would like to welcome Brian Gay, winner of the 2020 Bermuda Championship.

Brian, congratulations on your fifth career PGA TOUR win and first in seven years. We know you've had success here at Bermuda in the past. If we could just start off with a couple comments on the week.

BRIAN GAY: Yeah, it's obviously great to be back in the winner's circle, it's been a while. Long time, seven years like you said. I was looking forward to coming back to Bermuda. Tied for third here last year, so I had good feelings and thoughts coming back. It's a crazy game, you never know what's going to happen. It's been a pretty long slump since the quarantine and been working on trying to get things back together and kind of came together this week.

DOUG MILNE: With the win you move to No. 9 in the FedExCup standings. You also win the weekly RSM Birdies Fore Love, so congratulations on that. On the green I overheard you talking and I heard you say you, quote, unquote, played awful since COVID. If you can just kind of elaborate on that and what pulled you out of that.

BRIAN GAY: I don't know what it was, it was just such a long break off and just came out really probably, I don't know, low energy, not that enthused about it. We're missing the fans and it was super quiet and just not much going on out there, I just struggled with it. And struggled with my putting a bunch, which is not normal for me, I'm usually a great putter. So I've been working on that a lot lately and a couple different things to try to turn things around here. It was great to have the fans out here this week; maybe that just sparked me a little bit to turn things around.

DOUG MILNE: I asked you about Kimberly and your family being here and you kind of gave me the long version. If you could just share with us how in the end it was probably a good thing that they didn't wind up.

BRIAN GAY: Kimberly, my wife, was planning on coming here on Wednesday, kind of a couple days after me, and we just decided -- she decided that it was just not worth the risk. The chance of her testing positive and then we'd both be probably quarantined for two weeks in the room and I'd miss a couple tournaments and we'd probably not survive the 14 days locked in a room, not to mention the kids at home. So turned out -- obviously it'd be phenomenal if she was here and the girls and everybody, but get to bring the trophy back.

Q. A couple of simple questions here. Were you hitting pitching wedge on 18 in

regulation?

BRIAN GAY: That was a gap wedge, my 50-degree.

Q. Just hit it as hard as you can?

BRIAN GAY: I had I thought a perfect full number with the wind behind me. So yeah, I told the caddy I think it's just a full one straight at it and it was just perfect yardage.

Q. And secondly, I don't know what the leaderboard situation was out there in terms of being able to know whether -- if you knew that Wyndham had a three-shot lead and if you knew what was going on when you three-putted 17?

BRIAN GAY: I knew -- I think I saw the board around 12, 13, and he was three ahead. I didn't know again until we came off 17 and my caddy said I was then 1 behind after I three-putted and Wyndham was in the fairway on 17, so I knew on 18 I was one back.

Q. Would that have affected how you putted on 17, that first one, because you gave it a pretty good run. You hammered it, Brian.

BRIAN GAY: I did. I had the putt to the back left pin the first or second day, I can't remember and I left it miserably short, so I knew the putt was really slow and I didn't want to leave it short. I didn't know where I stood. I didn't hit a good enough 3-wood off the tee and I was forced to lay up, which was unfortunate. I made a ton of putts, I putted great. Three-putt there, which stung me at the time, but turned out, was able to work it out.

Q. (Inaudible) on this tour a couple top-3s, what is it about this place that kind of allows you to play your best golf?

BRIAN GAY: I grew up on the south on bermudagrass, I love bermuda greens. Living in Florida, the wind doesn't bother me. I think it's familiarity with the bermudagrass. It's not a long golf course. It's a golf course where I get a lot of short clubs and you can't really overpower the golf course. It keeps the shorter hitters in the game, everybody has a chance here.

Q. Is it something like you enter the week and see kind of -- do you feel better about your chances just from Monday, Tuesday --

BRIAN GAY: Yeah, it's in the back of your mind. I had good feelings from last year finishing tied for third, so I was looking to coming back. It's not something you want to think about too much or have kind of over expectations, but just know that you're in a good place and just do your thing and have a chance to play well.

Q. Seven years since your past win, kind of speak to the emotion of winning again. Did you ever wonder if you might not win on Tour again?

BRIAN GAY: I did wonder. Like I've been saying since we got done, I've struggled the last few months and been quite miserable on the course at times. Everyone around me kept telling me you're still going to win. My wife says you're still going to win, do it again. Just kept at it. Crazy game, you never know what's going to happen. And it's really hard to believe right now, but yeah, almost seven and a half years or so, so it's really pretty cool.

Q. You've obviously been out here a long time and going off what you said, wondering if you would ever win again. I'm wondering as distance has become more and more important, I guess, in recent years, if you ever felt like that diminished your chances of winning more so now than it would have seven years ago.

BRIAN GAY: I couldn't quite hear the beginning of that. No, like I was saying, I've been fighting -- I tried to do some things in my game to be -- being one of the older guys out here and I've always been a short hitter, short, straight, good short game. The guys are young and hitting it really far, so I've tried to do some things in the gym and some stuff with my swing to get some more distance to try to stay out here longer. I want to stay past turning 50. Right now I still feel I want to play out here. Everyone asks me when are you going to the Champions Tour and I tried to just focus on the PGA TOUR until I decide to go over there. It's pretty cool that it happened. Really unexpected.

Q. Just to follow up, the second shot on 18, if you could maybe just explain the difficulty level of that one in regulation.

BRIAN GAY: Yeah, I got fortunate there. While I was standing on the cart path, which I got a little bit of a break, I got to drop it in a little bit better lie. The yardage was actually perfect. It was a perfect gap wedge with the wind behind me to the hole and I just told my caddie I think it's just a full one straight at it and it just turned out to be perfect.

Q. You talk about the crazy game, which it is, of course. You probably haven't had time to digest this, but was there ever a point where you thought that going to places like Kapalua, like Augusta were well past you and how does it feel to be going back there at your age? Excuse me, experience.

BRIAN GAY: Yes, no question it's entered my mind wondering that I would do it. My wife and family have continued to push me, and caddie and coach and everything saying you definitely can still win again, just you've got to keep believing in this game, you never know when it's going to turn around. It's been pretty crappy as of late, but I've still been trying to work hard and turn it around.

Yeah, Kapalua and the Masters was really far from my mind, but it's phenomenal, phenomenal to start off in Maui and to go to Augusta.

Q. Is it true that some of the guys you beat are as old as your kids?

BRIAN GAY: I'm sure, yeah. My oldest just turned 21, so that's pretty crazy. Yeah, a lot of them aren't much older than her.

Q. One last thing, Brian. The club you hit on 15 that took that great hop out of the rough to about three or four feet, that was a good shot there.

BRIAN GAY: That was a gap wedge as well. Kind of a flyer lie, just kind of chopped it out and knuckled it up there. Was aiming a little bit right of the pin and it kind of fell right and got a great hop and ran up there.

Q. Was there any other shot that really stood out to you as being critical?

BRIAN GAY: I think on the back nine the tee shot on 14 was super critical. I hit it in the middle of those trees on the hill on Thursday and had to re-tee, lost ball. Actually, looking back, that was huge for me. I started on the back nine Thursday, missed a six-footer on No. 10, my first hole. A few pars, whip it in the woods on 14, re-tee. I then hit it to like five feet to save bogey. Could have been sitting immediately 2 over.

I even thought about that yesterday, that that was big making a 5 there and kind of kept me going and played good after that. But I think the tee ball with that wind off the left on 14 and getting that nice 3-wood out there in perfect shape to make a birdie.

Q. What did you hit in for your second?

BRIAN GAY: 9-iron.

Q. Everyone talks about your experience. How crucial was that when the pressure really came on, you've had that experience that perhaps Wyndham hasn't? How important was that in the playoff to make the shots you needed to make?

BRIAN GAY: Yeah, you know, after that long from winning, I guess you don't really forget. It's still hard, you're still nervous. I feel like, though, when I get in position, I actually sometimes perform better. I'm more maybe hyper-focused, a little bit more locked in even though the nerves are there, I know that I've done it before.

And I said to my caddie just going to the playoff in the cart, I said let's go birdie this and get out of here. Nothing to lose, let's go make birdie and win it.

Q. How would you actualize where this win stands in your mind as you look back?

BRIAN GAY: That's really hard to say. It would definitely be probably the most surprising victory considering how I've played the last six months. It's hard to beat that first one and it's hard to beat winning by 10 at Harbour Town, but they're all special. They're all hard to get and I treasure every one of them.

Q. Thinking about the game and where it's going and you see Bryson, do you think there's still a place 10, 20 years down the road (inaudible)?

BRIAN GAY: Well, I certainly hope so. I think it's better when everybody in the field can compete and have a chance to win. It's phenomenal what guys are doing to change their game and to try to find advantages somewhere on the golf course to try to beat people. Hats off to them for going doing the work. It's a tough game and we're all trying to do the best week at it.

DOUG MILNE: Brian Gay, 2020 Bermuda Championship winner. Brian, congratulations.

BRIAN GAY: Thank you.