

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**OLIVER BETSCHART**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome Oliver Betschart to the Butterfield Bermuda Championship interview room.

Oliver, welcome. You're probably as nervous as I am. This is probably something you're not used to. Thanks for joining us. Your PGA TOUR debut after qualifying through the local qualifier, just what has the experience been like this week once you've been on site so far?

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** It's still a lot of practice and trying not to tire myself out too much now leading up to Thursday. Trying to stay focused and doing a lot of visualization and mental training now getting ready for the tournament.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** When the tournament starts, what sort of expectation do you have about how the week will go in your mind?

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** I'm trying not to look too far ahead into the future. It's just kind of focusing on that first tee shot on Thursday. Just kind of staying focused and staying in the moment.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I imagine you've played this golf course many, many times. Do you kind of have a favorite hole that fits your eye or a hole that you're sort of uncomfortable on?

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** For favorite hole, I'd probably say No. 3, the short par 3 on this course, but not for any special reasons like view or anything like that. It's all just kind of in my memory where I decided where I want to play golf for my life. I had my first hole-in-one there when I was 7 years old, so that kind of just stuck in my memory and that was a turning point for me.

**Least favorite hole, don't really have one, just play every hole how I want to.**

**MARK WILLIAMS:** So I believe on Tuesday you had a practice round with a couple veterans on the PGA TOUR, Ben Crane and Stewart Cink. How was that experience? What did you talk to them about and what did you learn from them?

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Playing with them was a great experience. We had a lot of fun, talked a lot. Ben was talking about putting a lot. You know, how he uses his level to read putts on the practice green and he trains like that. So I'll probably after the tournament get into that a bit more, to take some stuff away from him and learn from the best in the game.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Did you ask them specifically for what advice can you give me or



anything like that?

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** I mean, asked a little bit about what they do about mental training and stuff. They said as well just a lot of visualization and just kind of focusing on next shot, don't focus in the past, don't focus in the future, just stay in the present moment.

**Q. Oliver, of course you've now -- you're a teenager and you've made it into an elite level of competition. How has your celebrity status gone over with your teenage friends and stuff like that?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** I'm not trying to get too hung up on that. Just staying social, you know, not feeling entitled or anything. Just staying very calm and enjoying hanging out with friends still. Nothing's going to change.

**Q. But the challenge around you must have magnified somewhat.**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** My support has definitely grew and I'm very thankful for that. Anybody who can come out this week also to watch and support me and the PGA TOUR would be amazing.

**Q. OK. Now it's a high level competition with some big hitters and some really great players and stuff, you know, the distance and all of the other levels of skill that's required. How do you stay within yourself and maintain your game and not get caught up with what they're doing?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Just got to focus on myself and playing against the course, not against my competitors really. Just staying -- playing my game, doing everything that I can. I realize that all the players out here probably outdrive me from anywhere between 70 to 30 yards, so I've got to apply the other strengths of my game.

**Q. Last year I believe you missed qualifying by one shot. What's changed over the course of this past year?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Just a lot -- not much, but I mean, I've been just practicing a lot more and training with mental coaches. My mental game has definitely improved since last year. Obviously getting a bit more length now definitely helps with my performance on the course. I'd say it's a different atmosphere as well, you know, to be in this amazing event here and to be able to compete on home soil.

**Q. Does this add to your level of nervousness knowing that you're now with the big boys?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Of course a little bit. Nerves are, they're meant to be there, it just means that you care about it. I don't think nerves are a bad thing, it's going to happen obviously. I mean, this is the big stage here and you're out here to play and have fun.



**Q. What do you think the biggest challenge of this particular course is?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** For Port Royal, it's all in the wind. It's a tricky course, but when that wind picks up it just becomes so much more difficult. I think that's what the players out here are going to have to look for now and focus on wind.

**Q. Do you think you have a bit of a home field advantage?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Of course, yeah. I've played this course over thousands of times now, so I know a bit more strategy and I mean, me and my coach, David Ogrin, have gone over this as well. I definitely have a bit of an advantage now having played the course a bunch of times and I just play my game, play how I've been doing now for the last few years.

**Q. Oliver, we are here, everyone's pretty much ticked all the boxes, so only question I have, what's it like getting the opportunity to tee off with your compatriot Michael Sims?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Oh, yeah, Michael, he's definitely a nice guy. I love playing with him. I've played with him a bunch of times before. And also playing with Andy Zhang is going to be a great experience as well. A lot of these guys have experience and knowledge that I will learn from and just enjoy the experience.

**Q. I know the adrenaline's rushing, the hype and buzz and all that. You get up on that tee box, having Sims there, does it help any mentally?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** I'm trying not to focus too much on my playing partners or competitors or anything like that, just stay in my game, but being able to have a familiar face around will definitely lighten the nerves a little bit.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Oliver, you mentioned Andy. He was 14 I think when he first played in his first PGA TOUR event, the U.S. Open. You're 15, you're very unique because not many guys age 15 in the last 10 years have played a PGA TOUR event. I think one other.

Do you feel like a celebrity this week? You've got David as your caddie, David Ogrin as you mentioned. He's a veteran out here, he's known a lot of players. Have players come up to you and been curious, asked you a lot of questions? Like how's it feel?

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** A couple of players have come up and just introduced themselves and we've talked a bunch. Also, last night I got introduced to Brendon Todd, which was amazing. We did a press conference at the Hamilton Princess and all these guys are very humble and very nice to talk to.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Did you pick Brendon's brain at all? What did he tell you?



**OLIVER BETSCHART:** We talked a little bit about the golf course, about what we think of different holes. We both agreed that 16 is definitely the hardest hole. Wind or no wind, it is very tricky from back on those tees.

**Q. For those maybe a little less familiar with your game, where would you explain where your strengths are in your game?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** At the moment I'd say putting is my strength. I switched to a brand called MYPUTTER about five months ago and ever since then my scores have been going from a couple over to a few under now, so that's definitely the strong part of my game.

**Q. We're in the fifth year of this event. Did you ever come out as a fan, and if so, do you have any specific memories of coming out and watching?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** I mean, I've been now volunteering and caddying and also helping out the PGA staff over the years, so it hasn't been a lot of time to just go out and watch, but when I have, just follow around the best players, just learn from their practice routines to what they're -- how long they're taking with their caddies, just a bit of everything. On the driving range, what they're doing as warm-up. I've seen that they're doing a lot of stretching when they're -- on the driving range getting ready for the tournament.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Speaking of that, your involvement in the tournament in different roles the last five years, you had a great Instagram post with your badges from different years and now one as a player, which is pretty cool. Did you come up with that on your own? Did you just kind of see those things and go --

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** That was actually my mom, she's managing most of my social media at the moment. She had a great idea and I thought so as well, so we went along with it.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Smart kid, always listen to your mother.

**Q. Speaking of items of significance, I notice a unique bracelet on your left wrist. I think I overheard a little of you talking about that being someone significant. Can you speak to that and how it keeps you focused in your round?**

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Yeah. My sister made it before the qualifier. It says "the next shot" on it and it's just kind of a reminder to me, don't focus on anything else except the shot that I have in the present moment. That's all from that, it's just a reminder.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Thanks, Oliver. We appreciate your time and good luck this week.

**OLIVER BETSCHART:** Thank you.

