

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 6, 2018



BRANDT JOBE

CHRIS RICHARDS: Brandt, welcome back to Des Moines for the 2018 Principal Charity Classic. How has it been being the defending champion over the last year?

BRANDT JOBE: It's been great. Great tournament, people have been wonderful. You know, it has a home feel with my wife being from Iowa, so it's been a wonderful first event to win.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Looking back, could you have picked a better tournament for your first PGA TOUR Champions win?

BRANDT JOBE: I've said this, the stars all aligned that week. It's been great, absolutely. People in Iowa have been wonderful. I've been back and forth 20 years with my wife's family in Debuque, so Iowa's been a great place for me.

CHRIS RICHARDS: You took the last tournament off, you attended a high school graduation. How was that experience?

BRANDT JOBE: It's been a busy week. I had two weeks off. I didn't play in the Senior PGA, my daughter graduated. We had both sets of family down there and it was a real busy week, and we sprinkled in a little with my son's baseball. The golf game's a little rusty. I've still got a couple days to tune it up, but I need a little work.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Have you had a chance to look at the course yet this week?

BRANDT JOBE: Yeah, the course is in good shape. Obviously playing a little different. Last year it got so hot and firm and fast. Yesterday when we played it was a lot softer, a lot different. You didn't have that big springy bounce like we did last year on Sunday, but the course is in good shape. It's going to be ready to go.

CHRIS RICHARDS: I'll open it up to questions now.

Q. How did life change for you after that win last year?

BRANDT JOBE: You know, I don't think life changed that much because, I mean, obviously, hey, it gives you job security but out here it's only for a year so that really doesn't count.

I think really what last year did was it gave me confidence that I'm doing good things and

what I'm doing are right. I had the next, I don't know, the next six weeks or so I think I made almost a million dollars in those six weeks out on the Champions Tour, so that was a nice little stretch for me. A third and a second and a third and a second, I mean, it was a nice little run and everything got kind of tidy and good.

Then unfortunately the last half or the last third of the year I didn't play as well as I would have liked to. So my goal is to kind of get everything together. I've got my family, my daughter off to college and she's getting ready and we've kind of done all our things. So now I can kind of get my priorities back so I can focus on golf and my game and hopefully kind of get things going this year.

Q. How close are you to having your golf clubs back fine-tuned after they got --

BRANDT JOBE: Not yet. I'm working on it. You know, it's hard. I mean, I had a driver that I had worked all -- that was the big thing for me was finding a driver. I found something and I drove it so good in Hawaii, long and straight, very long, and I was like, wow, okay, this is great. Got broken and everything and I tried to put the same head with the same shaft. I must have tried five different shafts, five different heads. That did not work, I don't know why. Believe me, I called everybody. It just didn't work.

So now I kind of got in the process of I had to go find different shafts, different heads, different combinations, and there's a million of them out there so it takes time. When you're standing up there on a hole in a tournament and maybe you don't feel comfortable, you kind of like to know what this driver, what this 3-wood's going to do and I haven't had that luck. Like I'm putting a new 3-wood in this week just because I haven't found something that I stand up there, I can have kind of a security golf shot and that's kind of what's hurting me is when I need to hit a shot or shape it or get it in play, I haven't done it that well this year.

Q. You're still leading the Tour in driving distance.

BRANDT JOBE: I'm just swinging hard.

Q. You've got to be doing something right, though, seriously.

BRANDT JOBE: You know, I went to -- the driver I was playing with's a very old driver, it's about six years old, and it wasn't really a very long driver. Had a lot of spin but it was fairly accurate, but I was giving up distance. So I've switched to a new driver this year and it's longer, it's faster and it goes further. I really can be honest where I haven't -- you know, I've been experimenting so much that I haven't had the same driver and shaft combination a lot of weeks, but I think the last two weeks I've got one together. So I've got the driver and the 3-wood's kind of the last key to my puzzle. I'm real close.

Q. What's this tournament atmosphere like compared to other places you go throughout the year?

BRANDT JOBE: This is a great stop for us because of how well it's supported by the community. Obviously the social media over there goes a little crazy at times, too. You can see all the support and the camaraderie and the community, and we see that as players and obviously by the attendance, it's attended very well and very strongly supported around here and that's fun for us.

Q. Is your bobble-head a fair representation of you?

BRANDT JOBE: Yeah, I had better bring this up. It's not bad, it's not bad. It's pretty good, yeah. I'm going to give it -- it's got a lot of hair. I hope all that hair stays in there and it's still brown. But yes, very good, it's very good.

Q. Srixon's got to be pretty happy too as well?

BRANDT JOBE: I think so, it's gone well. I mean, they got the visor, they got the same shirt I had on, pants, shoes, belt. It's really neat.

Q. So what's your favorite --

BRANDT JOBE: And then the Band-Aid. I don't know if y'all ever caught that, but I have a little Band-Aid that I wear on my right finger here and she put the Band-Aid on there so that's pretty good right there. That's attention to detail.

Q. What's your favorite course in Dubuque?

BRANDT JOBE: You know, that's good, I've got to be careful how I answer that. You know, probably Dubuque Country Club because it's in such good shape. But I play a lot out at The Meadows and I've enjoyed that, and I've played a lot out at Thunder Hill. So those three, can I have three favorites because they've all been great to me and welcomed me and we've had a good time at all three.

Q. Kind of feel like an Iowan playing so much golf in Iowa?

BRANDT JOBE: I do. I just went out and I played Glen Oaks this morning. I had to check it out and see what it was all about, so good golf course there. Yeah, this is a great spot. The summers in Iowa are awesome, they really are. I enjoy them. We've spent a lot of summers out here.

Q. And did you get that practice round in with Scotty McCarron in this morning?

BRANDT JOBE: We did, we shot out early together. You know, both of us, his wife's not in town, mine's not in town yet, so we kind of had Wednesday off and instead of kind of come out here and try and get some work done, we both went out there and kind of had a little match.

Q. How did it go, who won?

BRANDT JOBE: I'm not going to tell you who won. I think you figured that out, he got me. On the last hole, though, I will say. Canned a 25-footer.

Q. What do you think you need to do coming back to this course now to kind of -- what do you think the keys are going to be for defending that title this year?

BRANDT JOBE: You know, that's a great question. I think what I'm going to try and do, my goal is just to be ready Friday at I think whatever time I'm off, at 9:30 or whatever it is, but be ready with my game. So I've got a little bit of tune-up still left and I think it's just to be confident in what you're doing. That's kind of my goal every single week, and how that ends up is how it does. I can't go out there and say, hey, gosh, I want to win this week, I wish it was that easy because there's a lot of factors to it. Like I said, for here, for this golf course for me, I think the conditions last year being so hot and blowing so hard had a lot to do with how this golf course played for me.

Q. What are some of the holes you see, you know you have to score well on to really keep ground and stay at the top of the pack here?

BRANDT JOBE: You know, what I see on this golf course is getting kind of through the first four holes. If you can somehow get through them under par, that's awesome, but if you're even, you can get into 5 and kind of get that little stretch. You've got 5, which is a definite birdie hole. And then 6 is kind of hang on, hit it in the fairway, but if you do, you've got a good short iron to score. Next one, 7's another short scorable hole. 8, another par 5. So that's kind of your stretch on the front nine. So I was looking at looking at getting off to a solid start here is very important.

Q. How do you overcome the challenges of all the vertical holes here?

BRANDT JOBE: You mean the up and down, the hills? You know, I think you just kind of get used to it. I've played here enough now that you can kind of understand it. We know this shot's five, it plays five yards uphill and this one may play seven downhill, so we've got all that written down in our books and charted. You know, it's more sometimes the walk a little bit more than anything.

Q. And last year I believe the jacket that Principal Charity Classic was giving out was a police jacket.

BRANDT JOBE: Correct.

Q. Are they doing a police jacket again this year? Horning?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Honoring local firefighters.

BRANDT JOBE: Oh, cool. Do we get the helmet, too? Man, if I win I might find out, huh?

Q. It's a very unique thing to win, so is that kind of another motivator for you guys, too?

BRANDT JOBE: I think that's neat. I didn't know that much about it until it was kind of unfolding in front of me last year, but I think that's really neat how they honor somebody, an organization at the end of the tournament. I think that's special, I do.

Q. The charity aspect of this, giving back to the kids of Iowa, where does that hit with you? Obviously every tournament has their charities, but this one gets to the kids.

BRANDT JOBE: Well, I got to go to the children's hospital this year, which was really, really neat, and I actually was in the children's hospital myself when I was 13 or 14 years old for about a month and a half, or month or so. So that kind of has a special place in my heart going back there, and just you don't understand what a lonely place that is and what you're sitting around waiting for and trying to get answers and some people don't have answers. If you can break up their day a little bit, just break up the routine, have a little bit of fun, something different, sometimes it's the little things that mean so much. So I remember that from when I was in there, so that probably is the most special thing to me.

Q. Would you say that's maybe even a bigger reward than the purse that comes with it is giving that opportunity?

BRANDT JOBE: You know, you don't realize you forget, we all forget how fortunate and lucky we are on a daily basis. To do what I do for a living, it's unbelievably lucky and that is a little bit of a reality check, there's no doubt about it. You see kids, when you see kids fighting for their lives and going through what they're going through just to try to figure out what is wrong with them, it's a very frightening thing. Having kids, I understand and respect it a lot more. So that's a very special part and I'm glad that they benefit from this golf tournament.

Q. Is your wife going to be here?

BRANDT JOBE: She is. She's rolling in I guess Friday at about noon.

Q. No baseball this weekend?

BRANDT JOBE: Oh, there's baseball, there's baseball. We've got baseball every -- in fact, I go home, she leaves to go to get my daughter off to orientation and then I go to Houston for baseball.

Q. Where is she going to college?

BRANDT JOBE: She's going to Auburn. We kind of got a break. A friend of mine whose

son plays on the team is going to help us out and she's going to sneak out.

Q. Is it tough balancing the golf life with the family life when you've got kids at the age they are?

BRANDT JOBE: Well, right now what I'm trying to do is figure out where my golf fits with all this other stuff. It's taken a back seat right now, but that's okay. It was time -- that was what it was all about was the things that are going on with the kids and finishing up. Like I said, now it's time for me to kind of get back on track and get going.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thanks so much, Brandt. Good luck this week.

BRANDT JOBE: Thank you.