

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 30, 2019



MICHAEL BRADLEY (-9)

JACKIE SERVAIS: It's a career low for you and it tied the course record. Can you just talk us through a little bit of your back nine there with that birdie streak that you had?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: Yeah, I putted well today. I was actually thinking about when I was on 18, I'm like, I haven't had many putts today. I had two two-putts before the putt on 18 that I made, so I had 23 putts. I hit some good iron shots. You know, I struggled with the driver today. I hit a lot of irons off tees just to try to get it in play. I had driven the ball extremely poorly the last few months. Fairways are firm, so I can kind of get away with it on a number of the holes. But, you know, I hit -- like I said, I hit some good iron shots today and I made a number of putts. If you're going to shoot low, you've got to make putts.

JACKIE SERVAIS: You seem like such a realist. When I said, "Great round for you today," you said, "Yeah, well, today."

Does this help you get a little hyped for the weekend or is it just kind of the same for you?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: No, I'm excited I shot 61. I didn't even realize it, but like I said, I played poorly the last few months and I haven't had a lot of confidence. You know, I got no business shooting 61. I'm just being honest. You know, I think 70 or 71's been the lowest round I've had in a number of tournaments. Like I said, I've struggled, I've struggled with my confidence. And again, this is -- you know, this is way out of the blue for me to play -- to shoot 61 like I did today. But I'll take it. Maybe I can catch lightning in a bottle and maybe try to get some confidence back and whatnot. You know, it's a fickle game, it's a fickle sport.

Q. Michael, there's a lot more people that can relate to not having any confidence on the golf course, but not in your business necessarily. Can you just kind of describe how tough it is to do what you do for a living when --

MICHAEL BRADLEY: Yeah, it is. It actually kind of started back I think at the PGA Championship this year. I got a little, I don't like to use that Y word, with my tee shots, but I started hitting it both ways and just, you know, I figured okay, it's one week, next week I'll get back to normal. It was actually probably worse than it was at the PGA Championship and I've just really struggled taking it from the range to the golf course. And it's predominantly with my tee shots. It's strictly tee shots. My iron play, you know, some days it's good, some days it's okay, and chipping and putting, but it's been my tee shots and I'm just, you know, feel like a 20 handicapper off the tee.

Q. Does that make it tough to take confidence from today?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: Yeah, because I hit four drivers today. I hit a good one on 11 and I would say that was probably the only -- that was the only decent driver I hit. I didn't hit any foul balls, which was good. Kept them kind of at least where I had a shot. The one on 15 I hit kind of a low pull hook way left over in the trees and punched out and wedged it in there about six feet and made par.

So, I mean, that's the kind of stuff you've got to do to shoot these kind of numbers, but that's the way I've been kind of driving it.

Q. Were you able to enjoy it today?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: You know what, I enjoy it other than the tee shots. Once the tee shot's over, then it's fine, but I've just got a lot of anxiety. I've just been deferring to the driving iron just to try to keep the ball in front of me to try to be competitive because I just don't have any confidence with the driver right now.

Q. Do you do scoreboard watching? Did you see the start that Forsman got out to?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: Early I saw someone was like 6 under after like seven or eight holes, but I didn't know who it was. Then I think we made the turn and I just happened to glimpse and I saw Dan was 7 under through 10 or whatever it was. I'm like, good for him, you know. Good for him. I guess he made a bogey or two coming in, I guess.

Man, this game, it can turn on a dime either way. You're playing -- Wes Short was just kind of whatever on the front nine and then shoot 6 under on the back. Then you could be playing good and, like I said, making two, three bogeys coming in. It's golf.

Q. What was your strategy coming into 18? You didn't know you were going for a course record?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: I had no idea. I was just praying to get my driving iron out there where I would have a second shot, that's what I was thinking about. Then I figured, okay, I got it out there somewhere I can at least lay up.

I mean, that's what stinks, I can't play as aggressively as I want. Wes Short's bombing it down there and he's got a rescue in his hand, but I don't have the confidence and feel like I can pull those shots off, so I'm just kind of trying to shoot the best score I can given what I've got. So it's kind of like, hit it here, hit it here, okay, let's see if we can hit a good wedge and make a putt.

Q. What's the significance of a course record? Does that mean something to you?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: Yeah, it's always cool to have a course record, yeah. You'll hopefully be a part of that golf course for a long time. You know, we're all out here -- we're all competitors and we all want to play well and we all want to win. But we'll see what

tomorrow brings. Like I said, I have no idea what tomorrow will bring with me. I don't want to act like I'm not excited about shooting 61 because I am, I'm extremely happy about it, but I guess I'm just apprehensive about upcoming and just how I've been playing. It's like, where did this come from?

Q. Who's going to check the leaderboard today and be really excited about the 61? Who's in your support?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: Obviously my family. You can hear my thing going off, people are already texting me and stuff.

I'm a very kind of low key, laid back -- I'm not a spotlight kind of guy, never have been. I just kind of like to go do my business and then whatever. To me, it's golf. It's what I do, it's not who I am. At the end of the day on the gravestone, Michael Bradley was a hell of a golfer -- I don't care. That's down the list. There's a million other things I would rather be known for other than playing golf. It's what I do.

Q. With the confidence -- with the lack of confidence I guess is a better way to put it, will you be comfortable in playing one of the last groups?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: God knows. Yeah, I'll probably be in the last group. Who knows. It's not like I haven't been there before, but given my current mental state, you know, I've just got to go out and just, hey, it's golf. If I go play good, if I don't play good tomorrow, you know what, life's going to go on. We all want to play good, but it's tough backing up -- sometimes it's tough backing up good rounds. But I'm going to give it 100 percent, give it 100 percent.

Q. Did you think that putt on 18 was good in there?

MICHAEL BRADLEY: I wasn't sure. I knew the line was good, I just didn't know if it had the speed and it just kind of [noise] at the end.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Thank you, good luck tomorrow.

MICHAEL BRADLEY: Thank you.