

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
December 12, 2019



BRIAN HARMAN
PATTON KIZZIRE

DOUG MILNE: Guys, thanks for coming back and joining us, defending champions of the QBE Shootout.

Brian, I know you're making your third start. Patton, you're making your second start. Just some thoughts on being back here together again and any kind of early action things y'all are seeing that might work well for you this week?

BRIAN HARMAN: Well, we are excited to be back. It's always a nice perk to be able to play in a fun event like this this time of year.

The golf course is playing good. We've had different winds in the practice rounds and probably we'll have different winds in the tournament. I've had some good groups in the pro-am, we've had fun, so all setting up to be a good week.

PATTON KIZZIRE: Excited to be back, excited to be playing with my buddy. It's a great event. Hope we play well again.

DOUG MILNE: Last year when you played for the first time, you had played before, did it -- obviously you won, did it live up to everything Brian or anybody else in the field may have mentioned about what a good, fun event this is?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Well, I have heard how much fun it is. Brian was I guess our team leader last year, he led off on every hole and kind of I was leaning on him for strategy.

But everybody talks about how much fun it is, and Greg does such a great job. The golf course is fun to play, the people are nice. It's an awesome week.

DOUG MILNE: Anything you want to add? You're always playing cleanup.

BRIAN HARMAN: I know, right? I might answer first. Yeah, it's a great week, the golf course, format. It's fun to be out and not seem like it's so serious. We play so much serious golf, it's nice to be around some buddies and to cut up a little bit, which happens out there.

I think it's probably a pretty good product to come watch because not often you can get that close. The guys are still competing, but we're also having fun and trying to make the best of it.

DOUG MILNE: One last questions from me real quick. You can answer first. Just kind of

assess the state of your game. I know we're kind of heading into a little bit of a downtime, but just kind of how you guys are feeling about your games as we're heading into 2020?

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, last year, first half for me was really bad, last half was trending better. I feel like I'm playing really well. I'm excited to play this week. Hopefully use this as a springboard into the first part of the year and try to get in contention in a lot of golf tournaments.

DOUG MILNE: Patton?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Yeah, this past year's been a little less than desired for me. I've been making a few changes recently, trying to get a little bit better so I can help this guy out this week.

It's a good time of year to come in and compete. We're still very competitive out there, but it is a little bit more relaxed. I think a lot of guys will be testing clubs and, you know, some different techniques out there. It's a good week to try those things out and see what you've got.

Q. What specifically are you fine tuning?

PATTON KIZZIRE: I've just been working on my swing with Justin Parsons a little bit, trying to get in a little better spot where I can swing a little bit more freely. We'll see how I do this week.

Q. What is the difficulty with designing your schedule these days as compared to when both of you first came out on Tour? Now there was a record 11 fall events, so that really makes a difference when you are trying to fine tune things. How has that changed dramatically from when you first came out here?

BRIAN HARMAN: It's not so much a physical thing but a mental thing. My first year out you could almost take the fall off if you wanted to. Now, I mean, I think after the Playoffs this year was the first month of no golf, no golf tournaments that I had in like three or four years. So it's just a constant mental -- so your breaks just have to be -- it's kind of like going to year-round school as opposed to having a summer break. You know, you get like you have to -- when you take your weeks off, you've really got to take them off because you can't just go all the way through. I think that's why you're seeing the Tour get a little younger is just because the mental fatigue is wearing guys out a little bit.

Q. Same sentiments?

PATTON KIZZIRE: I forgot the question. I was just amazed at his answer. Year-round school, it made sense.

Q. When it comes to you picking and choosing where you play from now to when you

first got out here, just mentally and physically, what has changed in your perspective?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Yeah, Brian's been out here for a little bit longer than I have. I have seen a little bit of change, more tournaments in the fall. The fall's been really good to me, so I'm always eager to get to it. This year wasn't the best, but in years past I've done really well.

It's a good change. The Playoffs being a little bit earlier is a good change. I like where it's headed.

Q. So now that obviously the schedule was flipped around, you mentioned the playoff events reducing, does that affect you on when you like to fine tune things in the calendar year?

PATTON KIZZIRE: Well, it's a never-ending cycle. Everybody's trying to fine tune stuff. You've got to find the right spots and you have to understand when you are working on stuff, things might not go as well as you would like, but at some point they'll show up. I think for the majors and the Playoffs is when guys really want to peak, so you have to schedule your work around the schedule and do your best.

Q. This is not related to this tournament, but we see so much because of video cameras, whether that be rules infractions or behavior on the golf course. I'm not trying to egg something on, but truly, does that change at all how you approach things? I mean, if you're an honest person, you're going to play how you tend to, but that shift has to be so drastic from how it was five, 10 years ago. Now everything's seen and scrutinized.

BRIAN HARMAN: I've always felt like that sunlight was the best disinfectant, so I don't think there can be enough cameras out there. I think that -- I think it's a good thing that we're held accountable because we're playing for a lot of money and it's a big deal for what we do, and the more eyes we have on us, I feel like it's better because the vast majority of the golfers are honest people who play by the rules and I think the light shines on them the brightest. It really sets our sport apart from others, I think.

Q. I was going to ask -- I forgot now what I was going to ask. (Laughs.) Oh, do you both -- I'm sure you set goals for last year. I assume you didn't reach them. Would you like to reconfigure for the coming season?

BRIAN HARMAN: Depends on what your goals are.

Q. Well, I don't know what they were, but --

BRIAN HARMAN: Yeah, I mean, yeah, you hardly ever reach your goals. You're always trying to set them too high. For me, my goals are more like, well, I want to be ready to go in

all the golf tournaments I'm in, because you can't necessarily control "I'm going to win for or five times." I want to be ready, I want my game to be ready, I want mentally to be ready to play.

If I do all those things and I do the stuff I'm supposed to do, I know I'll have a good year. I don't like putting "I've got to do this, this, this and this," because if you do that you're almost always selling yourself short of what you're capable of. If I'm ready, then --

PATTON KIZZIRE: You want to set some goals that are unattainable and some that are attainable. I think the short-term goals that Brian speaks of are kind of my focus as well. You want to be prepared, you want to do what you have to do to be prepared and take that into the tournament. And then execution, how well do you execute, how well do you handle yourself, how well do you handle your emotions and everything that's thrown at you, because golf doesn't go perfectly so you have to deal with it. I think that's what everybody, when they play their best, they do all those things.

DOUG MILNE: All right, gentlemen, easy enough.