

**BRENDON TODD**

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**Q. We would like to welcome our defending champion Brendon Todd to the 2020 Bermuda Championship. Obviously some great memories for you from last year. What's it like to be back on site, Brendon, after that momentous victory last year here?**

**BRENDON TODD:** It feels really good. The people here in Bermuda are so wonderful and hospitable and accommodating. To get to the golf course this morning, go out there and play was a lot of fun rehashing memories, and the golf course sets up well for me and I was able to make a few birdies out there, so pretty fun day.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** A lot's happened since last year's victory, you went on and won the following tournament at Mayakoba and obviously made it to the FedExCup Playoffs and to the final, the Tour finale, finished 20th. What's this last year been like for you compared to the previous four or five before that?

**BRENDON TODD:** Well, obviously a big change, but just an awesome year, one I think that hopefully is a step in the right direction obviously and one that maybe I can repeat again this year, even the next year and have a lot of years like that where I'm a consistent contender out here and making a lot of TOUR Championships.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** You've started the season pretty well, Brendon. How would you rate it? Nothing spectacular, but really solid at the Open and the CJ Cup and the ZOZO. How would you rate the start so far on those three events?

**BRENDON TODD:** Well, finishes haven't been great, but my game and form has felt good, especially on the greens. Feel like I'm putting maybe as consistently as I've ever putted, really good from close range, great speed from long range. Still pretty consistent off the tee. And for me, I haven't chipped very well, so I think that's led to a few more bogeys and it's dropped me out of contention a little bit each week. Just tighten up a little bit around the greens and into the greens and I'll do pretty well.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Is there something from the tournament last year, the inaugural Bermuda Championship, that really stands out to you that you remember the most about not probably the prize-giving or anything like that, but something during the tournament that stands out to you, jumps out to you that you remember the most?

**BRENDON TODD:** Jeez, I think that front nine I played the last day is something that's just emblazoned in my mind of just great execution, hitting it close a lot, and obviously making those seven birdies in a row on holes 2 through 8. It's a really special run, it's not something

that happens every day or even every year. The front nine, I felt like I was kind of walking on clouds and that's a really special feeling to have. To kind of feel like you have the tournament in hand going into the back nine was pretty cool. I felt like Don, my caddie and I, really enjoyed the back nine.

**Q. While a lot of golf fans' attention is already shifting to the Masters, explain why this week is a huge opportunity for you and others in the field?**

**BRENDON TODD:** I think we're really fortunate the Bermuda Championship this year has 500 FedExCup points to the winner, a two-year exemption like always. That's a lot to play for out here. The 500 points and the win can catapult you up the FedExCup list, give you a really good chance to make the TOUR Championship and also some job security out here. A lot of guys in the field had played maybe like I had previous to winning here where you didn't have job security. That's the big thing for us every year is how do you keep your card, have a win, get a little two- or three-year bump and have a long career out here. So we're all playing for that big win carrot.

For me, coming back to a place where I feel like I have good form at a golf course that suits me can build more confidence heading into the Masters and potentially give me another chance to win a tournament and shoot up the FedExCup list. Lots to play for here in Bermuda and again next week in Houston for a lot of guys, and that's what's so cool about this tour is each and every week we have a lot to play for and it's going to change somebody's career probably every week.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** If I told you that this was your 200th PGA TOUR start, how would you react to that? Would you be surprised or would you be like, I feel like I played more?

**BRENDON TODD:** No, not surprised. Obviously I kind of know where I'm at most of the time. You know, I think with golf it's one of those games because it's cyclical and your confidence can kind of go up and down a little bit, sometimes you don't always feel like a guy that's maybe played 200 times from a confidence standpoint.

For me, right now I feel probably even more of a veteran than that out here just because I've had so many years of competing in professional golf. This is probably my 13th or 14th season playing pro golf and I feel like the Tour's getting much younger, I feel like one of the older guys out here now and I feel like all those years of experience and now the good form has given me reason to be confident and consistent and contend every week.

**Q. If I had told you a year ago at this time before Bermuda that you would be the highest ranked player in the field, what would your response have been?**

**BRENDON TODD:** I probably would have laughed and said I'll take it, give me more, right? Again, like I said, there's probably going to be somebody this week that finishes first or second who is a great player and has shown great form either in the last year or in a previous year that changes the curve of their career and is going to make the TOUR

Championship. I guarantee somebody else from this field makes the TOUR Championship and goes on to be a consistent player out here. That's what's so cool about some of these events that don't have the top-ranked guys in them.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I mentioned the 200th start. When you won here it was your 100th start since winning for the first time on Tour. Are you a believer in symmetry like that with round figures or is it just superstitious or coincidence, or what do you think of that?

**BRENDON TODD:** I really like symmetry. I've always been sort of an organized type of mind, so I do think that's pretty cool. However, I don't necessarily think the world revolves around it and I don't generally expect good things to happen on symmetrical terms.

**Q. Thinking about last year since the win, what are you most proud of?**

**BRENDON TODD:** I think I'm most proud of going to the next event and winning again and just continuing to show good form. And this wasn't just one week of good golf; this was actually the state of my game in the four missed cuts I had, it just required a little extra putting and just kind of things coming together. I became a really consistent, good player over the course of 2019 and it culminated in three great weeks to finish the season, and now I think in 2020 I've shown more of that form and I'm kind of anxious to get another chance to win a tournament and just not prove to myself but prove to the world that I can do it again and I can be a consistent winner out here.

**Q. Harry Higgs was the runner-up last year to you and you played with him on Sunday. He's been in contention a little bit and been in the news lately. What impresses you about Harry?**

**BRENDON TODD:** Well, everybody kind of points to his laid back attitude, but when it comes down to it, the guy's really confident and he's very solid throughout his bag. He drives it long and straight, he's a good iron player and what impressed me that day was how good of a putter he was. He putted really well on that front nine to shoot 3 or 4 under. He had one bad shot on the par-5 7 that kind of cost him. I think he made double there and that shot him in the foot for the tournament. If he doesn't double 7, he makes a 4 like normal, we probably would have had a shootout coming down the stretch. I haven't been surprised to see him progress and get in contention. I do think he'll be a winner out here on the PGA TOUR and he's got a good game.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** You won by four strokes last year with a score of 24 under. Do you feel like that sort of score is going to be required to win again? I guess it depends on the weather a lot.

**BRENDON TODD:** I think something in the 20s, something in the low to mid teens might be leading through two rounds because we're going to have good weather the first two days. This golf course is gettable. Me and my caddie were kind of laughing how many times I had like 50-degree or sand wedge into par 4s, which suits my game really good, I'm good at

those clubs, and that's just going to yield a lot of birdies from this field. Yeah, I think the scores are going to be pretty low. It's going to be windy Friday, maybe a little rainy on the weekend, but I don't think that's going to hold anybody back.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I think you're the only player who played last week at ZOZO that's here. Obviously you're defending and there's a reason for you to be here, but do you feel any sort of fatigue? Are you feeling healthy, fresh, ready to go or do you feel just --

**BRENDON TODD:** Well, I definitely was a little fatigued today. I flew from L.A. to Atlanta on Monday and then I flew from Atlanta to here yesterday, so I kind of had two days of travel. A little bit tired today, but I think one more good night's sleep and I'll be fresh and ready to go tomorrow just like a normal week. I'm fortunate to have an early-late tee time so I'll be able to kind of recover between every round.

The only thing holding me back is I fractured my left big toe the Tuesday before the CJ Cup and so that threw me off that first round at CJ where I shot 77, but I bounced back and played some good golf after that that week. If it wasn't for --

**MARK WILLIAMS:** How did you do that?

**BRENDON TODD:** I was in the gym at my country club on Tuesday before CJ and just had a weight slip off the rack, 45-pounder landed on my toe so it fractured it. It hurt really bad, so I was kind of 50/50 if I was going to go to CJ Cup, but I went because I wanted to play Shadow Creek, I wanted to get going. I had taken three weeks off. I could walk without pain, I just hadn't really played any rounds yet. I kind of had to work my way through it during the week, and by the end of the week it felt like I was hitting it pretty normal. Felt like I played pretty solid last week. I might be losing a couple yards off the tee or something, but for the most part everything feels pretty good.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Well, we hope the toe's recovered and you're ready for a good defense of your title. Thanks for your time, Brendon. We really appreciate it and good luck this week.