

# AARON BADDELEY



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## INTERVIEW WITH AARON BADDELEY

### AUSTRALIAN OPEN

WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2009

AT THE MEDIA CENTRE, NSW GOLF CLUB.

**FACILITATOR:** Aaron, thank you for coming in today. How did you play and what did you think of the golf course?

**AARON BADDELEY:** I thought the golf course was really good. This is my third round in ten years here so it was great to get out yesterday, have a look at the course, and then today was a little bit nicer than the other day. Obviously with the wind.

I felt my game was really good so I'm looking forward to having a good week.

**FACILITATOR:** Geoff was saying that the wind will be given tomorrow and probably during the tournament, so it was a little awkward for you and all the players to play the last couple of days when tomorrow you expect the wind to come from a different side. Have you played in that wind before?

**AARON BADDELEY:** I think I played in that wind the last time I played here ten years ago. But I think it's supposed to do a bit of both. But either way, you just figure it out, you know, that's sort of what we do. So becoming more experienced now that you're able to adapt to things like that, which makes it easier to still shoot good scores, even though the wind will take practice.

**FACILITATOR:** Great. Questions gentlemen please.

**QUESTION:** Aaron, you said that at the Masters in Melbourne that your game wasn't quite there, although it showed signs. Are you coming into this event in better form than you were in Melbourne?

**AARON BADDELEY:** I definitely feel that for sure. The last couple of practice days I felt like I've had really good practice sessions. Lynchy flew in last week into Melbourne so we spent a couple of days together after I got back from China. Just working on a couple of little things and I really feel

very comfortable with my game this week. So just make a few putts and keep the ball out of wind, it should be fine.

QUESTION: Is it the case that you're feeling more comfortable at this stage than maybe you have during the whole year?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah, probably, I would say so. I feel like my game is better, probably the best it's been so far. And like I said, I feel like i am more comfortable with where I'm at.

QUESTION: What do you say Aaron about the course having played a few times and just looking at the visually? Is it somewhere where you stand on the first confidently or maybe a bit daunting with the way the wind has been?

AARON BADDELEY: No, I'm definitely on the first day feeling confident because I feel like I can control the flight of my ball quite well. Which makes it easier to play around here because with the wind you're going to have to hit the right flight. So I feel stepping out, I feel very comfortable on this track. It really suits my, even though you can't see some things, still I feel like I know where to hit it and how to play.

QUESTION: Obviously you're known for your great putting. Are you happy with the role and all that sort of stuff?

AARON BADDELEY: Yes, I think the whole course is phenomenal. The green is perfect. The greens are really good speed, they're not too fast which I don't think you can get, or too quick because of the wind. But the whole course is just perfect.

QUESTION: How would you sum up your 2009?

AARON BADDELEY: I would say results wise it hasn't been ideal. I feel like I made a lot of good improvements off the golf course and life in general. 2009 was a great year.

QUESTION: What improvements are you talking about?

AARON BADDELEY: As in like just with my swing, making some swing changes, if I can get my putting back to where it needs to be. I think it's just the improvements I'll be making with my swing aren't quite showing on the score board.

QUESTION: Was it a combination of reasons why the results weren't quite what you wanted during the year?

AARON BADDELEY: Yeah. I mean if you think about it, it's just like two putts here, a couple of bad shots every tournament, that's 16 shots. You know, that's a big difference. Just the little things of getting up and down a couple more times, making that extra putt. In the end that can mean like 12 shots every tournament and that can mean winning or finishing 30th or 40th, you know?

QUESTION: So the changes you're talking about, did you realise you'd have to be pretty patient to see the results you wanted to see eventually?

AARON BADDELEY: Yes, Dale and I talked about the big picture. It's all about the big picture, it's not about right here, right now. It's like if you do that, then it's easy to get impatient and get frustrated.

Obviously there was times when I was frustrated because you want to play good, but keeping the big picture in mind of learning all the time and getting better. So it's a matter of staying the course and keeping the big picture in mind.

QUESTION: Aaron, how far do you feel the way your swing is to say when you won the Aussie Open a few years back? Obviously you had a period of time when you went away from Dale and now you're back with him. How far away do you think your swing is from getting back to say when you were winning Aussie Opens?

AARON BADDELEY: I think it's pretty close, to be honest. There was just a couple a little things that I couldn't quite suss out that we felt like we did in the last couple of days. Especially like in my pivot. So this week I can say I really feel like I'm swinging the club nice, hitting the ball nice. Just got to keep that ball out of the wind and it will be fine.

QUESTION: Does it feel a lot better with Dale compared with David? Does it feel more familiar?

AARON BADDELEY: Yes. I mean I felt like, when I started working back with him, it was sort of like coming home in a way. That's what it felt like in the sense of I was comfortable with him. I've been with him since I was young and growing up. He had a big influence on my life and in my game. And a lot of the old feels with the swing and the same idea, I could use my swing as a model compared to using someone else's swing so that was great.

QUESTION: Aaron, what are you doing in the last couple of weeks since the Masters?

AARON BADDELEY: I was just in Melbourne. The week after was just catching up with the family and friends and then last week was in China for a few days with my junior tournament at Guangzhou. Then the last few days back in Melbourne working with Lynchy and practising.

QUESTION: That tournament of yours was pretty busy in Fiji, was that the same one?

AARON BADDELEY: Yes, it's the same one. I think it was the 9th event this year. The last five years I've been in China so just getting better every year. I had about twelve countries this year to play, twelve or thirteen. Like I said, it just keeps getting better and better.

QUESTION: And the Chinese government has just signed on for another five years I believe?

AARON BADDELEY: Yes, that's correct. So it's been very successful.

QUESTION: Aaron, Geoff was saying about the wind and how it's been from the south and it's all going to change around. How hard is it to prepare in that sort of condition?

AARON BADDELEY: I mean going around today we were already talking about well we head off the tee or how we play the whole thing opposite. So you really have an idea going out there, how to play it. You've still got to hit the same shots in the sense of keeping the ball down, going into the wind, instead of today the easy holes will be hard tomorrow and quite hard holes will play easy. So I think overall it's just, I mean like I said before, I feel like I'm more experienced so it's easier to change over and just change like that.

QUESTION: Before you were saying about the last few weeks, does that mean you haven't picked up the clubs a lot in the last couple of weeks?

AARON BADDELEY: No, I practiced a little bit like the first week. In China, played a little bit there at the MM and I played with some kids and some of the sponsors there. The day before I just practiced and played a little bit with the guy who helps run the tournament or helps put it on, sort of owns the golf course that we play at.

So yes, I played a little bit, haven't probably played as much as I would normally play if I was back in Scottsdale, but it's been great just to be able to hang out and be back in Melbourne, catch up with friends and family.

QUESTION: Do you prefer to play a few weeks in a row, or do you find you can still play okay if you haven't had a tournament for a couple of weeks?

AARON BADDELEY: I feel fine. A couple years ago I won the Aussie Masters, I think I had three or four weeks off before that. So I feel like as long as you prepare right, having some time off shouldn't make that big a difference I don't think.

QUESTION: Aaron, do you get a different feeling, given your history with this course the success of this year, do you still get a different feeling when you come to this place?

AARON BADDELEY: Yes, I would say so for sure. I mean the other night, last night we had a cocktail party and had the Stonehaven Cup up on the stage and just seeing the cup. I know my name is on that twice already so that gives you confidence when you come to an event that you've already won. I mean you've done it before and you can definitely do it again. Yeah, I love playing in the Australia Open.

QUESTION: Do you believe it's ten years ago when, as an amateur, winning that I think for the first time?

AARON BADDELEY: No, it's just gone by so quick. It's crazy. I can't believe I've been on tour for nearly ten years, I mean that's just silly.

QUESTION: Are you looking to use this season as a springboard into next year now that you feel like your swing's in shape?

AARON BADDELEY: Absolutely. That definitely was a thought of mine in the last couple of months, like really using Kingston Heath and this week as a stepping board for the 10th season

FACILITATOR: Any more questions please? No. Thank you very much for coming.

END OF TRANSCRIPT.