

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: KIRK TRIPLETT
Sunday, June 14, 2015



Q. Kirk, 13-under, looks like you're going to finish second. You had a run midway through the round there, birdied five out of seven holes or something like that.

KIRK TRIPLETT: Yeah, made a couple of putts and hit it close a couple of times and all of a sudden I looked up and I was within eight. I thought if I make six more birdies, Bernhard's going to be nervous. (Laughter.)

I started driving it kind of erratic the last five or six holes. I felt all week there was a low score out there and I just wasn't able to get it, I could never finish my rounds off. Today I got it 3- or 4-under at the turn and got some early birdies at the back, was able to get one more coming in, so I'm thrilled. I haven't been in contention too many times this year so it was nice to get up there and feel a little bit nervous over some shots. I'm looking forward to the rest of the summer.

Q. Was your goal coming in being so far back to finish second?

KIRK TRIPLETT: My goal was just to hit some better shots. I've done that a little bit this week, made a couple of putts. But I wasn't so worried about the position, you can't always control that obviously, but then when we're in the middle of it out there, yeah, you see the leaderboard and you see what's going on, and when Bernhard's a couple under on the front, you know, the tournaments' over most likely, so yeah, it becomes a tournament within a tournament.

Q. How do you feel about the way you finished?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Oh, I'm thrilled, yeah. Very excited. I think just had one top 10 this year and haven't been able to put together kind of back-to-back good rounds. Had a couple nice rounds this week. Couple rounds I didn't get as much out of them as I should have and today I probably got a little more out of my round than I should have.

Q. You had two wins out here last year. Do you think you have it in you after this to get another win?

KIRK TRIPLETT: I think I can win every tournament, but so do all the other 80 guys. That's what we're trying to do, is to win tournaments. To win tournaments, you've got to hit better shots. I have been hitting good enough shots to win tournaments.

Q. This is a major, though.

KIRK TRIPLETT: They're all majors. If they pay money, it's a major. But yes, it is, it's a four-round tournament, you feel like you can jockey for position a little bit more. The courses

are typically a little more demanding, a little more difficult, so yeah, I think most of us enjoy that format.

Q. When you went on that streak, was there any time when you started peeking at the leaderboard?

KIRK TRIPLETT: I'm the kind of guy that I always kind of know where everybody's at. I don't keep my head down and walk by the leaderboards trying not to look at them. I take a quick look, see where I'm at. If I'm not where I want to be, I quit looking and start playing, at least that's the way I've always tried to approach it. But yeah, I went from kind of battling it out in the pack there at 6-, 7-, 8-under to getting ahead of the pack. Then you want to get a little separation and that's what those three birdies did for me, gave me a little bit more freedom coming down the stretch to freewheel it a little bit, not of feeling like I'm holding on where every shot was really valuable.

Q. On 18 how far was that birdie putt?

KIRK TRIPLETT: The birdie putt? I don't know, 45 feet maybe, just from that middle tier.

Q. Did it enter your mind that was for the course record?

KIRK TRIPLETT: No.

Q. You would have tied the course record just set the other day by Steve Pate.

KIRK TRIPLETT: No, I didn't know. I should have made some putts earlier if I wanted the course record.

Q. Can you tell us about the birdie streak? I think it was six out of seven, wasn't it?

KIRK TRIPLETT: I don't know. I birdied 7, I hit it close, that uphill hole.

Q. What about 6?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Did I birdie 6? Yes, I birdied 6 also, which is a good hard hole and I birdied it the last two days. I birdied there, I birdied 7, had a good chance on 8 and missed it, kind of mediocre wedge on 9 but made the putt, terrible tee shot on 10 but hit it to two feet. 11, hit two good shots. 12, hit a nice shot.

Q. What's the longest putt you made in that streak?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Probably No. 9, about 15 feet.

Q. Is there any birdie that you're most proud of? You're most proud of all of them, but --

KIRK TRIPLETT: I think birdieing No. 6 is an accomplishment. That's a hard hole out here and kind of sets the tone. When you're 1-under, you're always kind of walking on eggshells. You get to 2-under, for most of the pros the green light's on, it's okay, let's go out and get a really good score. You're 1-under, you're still kind of trying not to make a mistake, you're trying to stay under par. So getting the second birdie and getting going, that was important.

Q. Can you take us through that?

KIRK TRIPLETT: No. 6 I just hit a nice drive down the middle and hit an 8-iron about 10 feet behind the hole, knocked it right in.

Q. What did you think of this course?

KIRK TRIPLETT: It's a nice course. I think it's not as hard as we thought initially. The greens were receptive all week and they were -- I've never seen so many pros leave 10-, 15-foot birdie putts short. I think some of that is respect for the slope on the greens because we always felt like they would get faster and they just never did. I think the real defense of the course lays in the slope on the greens, and if the greens were fast and firm, this place could be a torture chamber.

Q. With the lead that Bernhard built through 36 and then 54, did you guys feel like it's going to be a race to second unless he totally collapses?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Oh, absolutely, and it's not the first time this guy's done this. I think he's a guy that maybe looked at the course and thought, hey, this course isn't really as hard as everybody thinks it is. He was making a few putts. It was windy and tough the first day and he played a nice round, and then he backed it up early the next morning. Most of us just didn't get out of the gate enough to stay with him.

Q. Just how impressive do you think he was this week?

KIRK TRIPLETT: This week, last week, the week before. He hasn't been winning tournaments this year, but what's impressive to me about Bernhard obviously is his preparation and his competitive spirit. I mean, he's just a wonderful guy to play with, he tries his hardest on every shot. And you know what? Monday afternoon at 3:00 everybody's out here goofing around, he's working pretty hard, and that's not just some weeks, that's every week.

Q. So what does this result do for you, for your outlook for the remainder of the year?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, my goal every year is to try to win tournaments obviously, but to try to finish in the top 30 on the money list. This is a third of that. If I finish second alone, that's a third of that total so that makes a big difference.