

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: STEVE WHEATCROFT
May 6, 2016



Q. Steve, let's go through the round. Had one birdie, you got started on the back side, you got it to minus 8, and then came to the dreaded Green Mile. What happened at 18?

STEVE WHEATCROFT: Yeah, I got through 16, 17 really well, I had two good birdie looks and just missed those. Just hit a bad drive on 18. Tried to play safe and just pitch it back into the fairway. Came out a little hotter than I thought it was going to, got into the rough. I don't know what happened with the third shot to be honest with you. It was a bad swing and it just kind of knuckled out of the rough to the left. It's an awful golf shot, plain and simple. Dropped it into a hole and didn't get it up and down, so very quick, easy way to make triple bogey.

Q. Thoughts on the course conditions today, it seemed like the greens picked up speed today?

STEVE WHEATCROFT: They were definitely fast. They're really fast. It just played really long today. The officials didn't do us any favors with the course setup. Between the 4th hole, the 9th hole and what was the other one, the 18th I guess it was, they're dead into the wind and they're all the way back, tees are back, pins are back. I hit 5-wood into two of the holes, and 18 obviously it took me a little while to get up there anyway, but it played really long and really hard today.

Q. Thoughts as you go into the weekend? Didn't lose a lot of ground, you're only three back right now.

STEVE WHEATCROFT: I'm frustrated obviously with how I played today. It was one bad hole on 18 really cost me, but I fought my way back. I know I'm playing better than what I did today. I need to go to the range, I need to work on the driver a little bit. The putter's been great, it saved me. So I'm excited. I'm in the hunt so I'm not too far back. Just need to eliminate some of those mistakes and make a bunch more birdies.

Q. You mentioned some frustrations with today but still in the hunt. Talk about how you're feeling after this round.

STEVE WHEATCROFT: Yeah, I feel good. I'm tired. That one wore me out. The course is playing really long and really hard today. I'm excited to be in contention. I'm frustrated with how I played today. I wanted to kind of keep moving in the red a little further. Obviously the triple bogey on 18 kind of set those goals back a little bit. I fought as hard as I could on the front nine. I just didn't hit the shots today, plain and simple. I short-sided myself and leaving it in really bad spots. I need to do a much better job on my course management tomorrow and I need to drive the ball better, but I'm definitely excited to have a chance going

into the weekend.

Q. Steve, seemed like the wind was a much bigger factor today than it was yesterday. Just talk about that a little bit.

STEVE WHEATCROFT: Yeah, it's kind of a gusty wind today, one minute it's laying down and you don't feel anything, the next minute it's blowing pretty good. The big thing was the tee boxes on 18, on 4, on 9, they moved them all the way back and the pins were back. Just really, really long golf holes. If you're hitting it Andrew Loupe's length they're a little easier. He hit 7-iron into the last hole there on 9, I hit 5-wood. So it's a little different game from where he's playing as long as he's driving it straight like that. But I'll just keep fighting, keep trying to make putts, and hopefully my course management gets a little bit better over the weekend and make some more birdies.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about what went wrong on 18 and you were able to still battle back and finish strong on the front nine?

STEVE WHEATCROFT: I pulled the tee ball left, I mis-hit it badly. Luckily, it stayed out of the water. I just didn't have much of a stance. I was just trying to play smart and get it back into play. Worst case I'd make 5. It just came out a little further than what I thought it was going to and stayed in the rough, which I didn't think it was a big deal because the lie was pretty good. But once I got up there, I realized I hit the shot and it was a bad swing but then it kind of knuckled on me as well, kind of a knuckleball into the wind. It's a terrible golf shot, plain and simple, and ended up in the water. I went up and I dropped it and I dropped it into kind of a hole or really bad lie. Just didn't get it up and down, so quick triple bogey.