

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
February 13, 2020

WYNDHAM CLARK (-4)



Q. Four under par. When you missed today, you got up and down.

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, and it's a tough course and, you know, if you miss, you've got to miss in the right spots and I did today. And then I hit some good chips and had some easy tap-in pars and made some putts, made some birdies.

Q. You started on the back side, finished on the front nine. That's an interesting corridor down there, five, six, seven, eight, you steal a birdie at eight and almost steal another one at nine. How good did that feel? Did you think you had it to finish --

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, it would have been really nice to finish birdie-birdie. A little bummed on the approach shot, I thought it was going to kick to the right a little bit and get on the green, but I thought I hit a good putt. Regardless, I'm happy with the round.

Q. Any difference in the hop from the front side to the back side? Obviously you went out in the morning. Did it firm up a great deal for you on the back nine?

WYNDHAM CLARK: More in the fairways. The greens were fine. The fairways, it started rolling a lot and the ball started going pretty far, so we were in some spots that we didn't think we could really get into and I was hitting some clubs a little farther than I thought.

Q. How would you assess your round out there today?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, it was really good. I started a little slow out of the gate, not really making any mistakes, I just -- I didn't take advantage of some par 5s. My par-3 scoring was awesome today, I birdied the par 3s. Then I kind of got into a nice groove kind of on -- right around hole 16, which is my seventh hole, all the way pretty much the whole back nine. I hit one errant shot on the par-3 sixth, but other than that, I putted well.

Q. What did you learn a couple weeks ago from your first two rounds you played at the Waste Management? A little trouble on the weekend, did you learn kind of being in that heat on the weekend there?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, of course. Obviously it didn't go how I wanted, but the more and more I play out here, the more I learn and the more comfortable I get. I'm hoping I continue to play well this week and learn from Phoenix. And if things go my way, I'm hoping to be there on the back nine on Sunday.

Q. Do you like the look of this golf course? Does this kind of fit your eye a little bit?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, yeah, it definitely does. I really like how the trees shape the fairways. I grew up on poa annua greens and it's a long golf course, it's tough. I always liked challenging golf courses. I think the best players come out when it's tough like this. You've just got to be really smart, put yourself in good spots when you're in trouble to get out of trouble. We did that today, so I hope to keep doing that.

Q. I've had a lot of players tell me that they know certain players really do enjoy those tough golf courses. Is it a different mindset to play a tougher course like this knowing that the winning score's not going to be 18, 20 under par?

WYNDHAM CLARK: It is a little bit. You know, you've really got to be patient because you think, oh, man, I see some guys making birdie or whatever and you're still at even par or one over. That's a great spot because they're -- it's going to be very hard to play that many rounds without any blemishes. If you just stay patient out there, you're going to get your chances. And some of these par 5s are very scorable. Yeah, I mean, you've just got to go in there and stay patient.

Q. The last year and a half or so, do you like how everything's trending in your professional career so far?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah. I mean, it's obviously not -- it hasn't gone quite as good as I would have hoped and thought when I first turned pro and came out here on tour, but it was my rookie year last year and I had a pretty good finish in the FedEx and this year thus far I've played some good golf. So yeah, I'm trending in the right direction and I hope I keep going up.