

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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WYNDHAM CLARK

MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Wyndham Clark into the interview room here at the Texas Children's Houston Open, making his fourth start at this event with his best finish two years ago finishing T-16.

Wyndham, welcome back to Houston. If we can get some comments on being here this week.

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, I'm looking forward to coming back. I've had some success here, unfortunately I've had poor Sundays. I've been in the top-10 a couple of times, so I really like this golf course. I like Houston, I like being at this venue and I think it fits my game so I'm happy to be here.

MODERATOR: One win already this year at Pebble Beach and then two runner-up finishes here of late, what an excellent start to the season. If we can get some comments on the state of your game coming into the week.

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, I've been playing some good golf coming off of two second places. If you take Scottie Scheffler out of the field, I might have two wins. So I've played really good and I feel good about my game.

Unfortunately suffered a little bit of a back injury earlier this week so I'm kind of nursing that, but it's loosening up and I was able to hit some shots today, so I'm looking forward to teeing it tomorrow.

Q. I guess I'll follow up on that. What did you do to your back or how serious do you think it's going to hamper you throughout the course of the week?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Just kind of like a muscle. Well, I threw it out. I was in pretty bad shape yesterday, but fortunately I have a great team that has gotten me to be able to swing and hit. So he flew in early yesterday morning. I was only really able to chip and putt, then I did a bunch of rehab and I was able to hit balls today. So just in a short time I've improved a ton and I think I'll be ready for tomorrow.

Q. How many times in the last couple of weeks or even if at all have you been able to sit and watch the replay of that last putt, because I know obviously you lived through it, but have you looked back on it at all and still wondered how it didn't go in?

WYNDHAM CLARK: I really haven't tried to watch it much, to be honest. I've seen it a couple times. One time I really looked at it and I was like I still can't believe it didn't go in.



Yeah, I don't really want to focus on that as a negative. I played awesome that week, I clutched up at the end and hit really good shots on 16, 17 and 18. It's unfortunate I didn't make the putts on 16 and 18. All in all, it was an amazing finish. Traditionally I haven't played great at that golf course. To come up just short honestly was a huge success.

Q. How do you anticipate this course playing differently in the spring with the overseed and kind of the different conditions than in the fall?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Well, it's aesthetically a lot prettier because normally it's a little more dormant when we play it. They've done an awesome job, the course is in amazing shape, it looks amazing.

I would say it's going to play a little bit easier. In the fall it was very tough because you would hit it in the rough and it was so hard to judge lies. And then around the greens was, you know, I mean, you would have into the grain, dormant bermuda so you could get some squirrly shots.

So I predict that scores will be lower than what they normally are in the fall, but all in all I love it how it is right now. I think everyone's raving before how good the course is and how good of shape it's in.

Q. Have you seen the new 17 at all with the green kind of being moved back 25 yards or so?

WYNDHAM CLARK: I have not. I literally played nine holes today, so that will be new. Hopefully my caddie has done some good work.

Q. How did you throw out your back? I guess where were you?

WYNDHAM CLARK: It was on Monday morning. I was in Scottsdale, I was working out. Body's been really healthy and I just got caught in an awkward spot doing a lift and back went.

It's not something that happens regularly, but it happened and you live and you learn. I'm trending in the right direction, I'm hitting it or feeling stronger and more mobile every day.

Q. Was there a thought at all that you might not be able to play?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, no, for sure. But I wanted to give it my best effort. I had a dinner last night that I wanted to be a part of and I knew I was playing with kids today that were battling with heart transplants and cancer, so I wanted to make sure I could be here for that.

I'm going to give it my best effort tomorrow and hopefully I can play and compete. If not, I've



got to get ready for tournaments to come after this.

MODERATOR: Before we open it up to more questions here, but you did just play with Jhett Skaggs, a double heart transplant recipient. What was that experience like for you?

WYNDHAM CLARK: What's amazing is, one, it's amazing how good the doctors are because you could barely even tell that Jhett had gone through so much. And then with that, it's amazing how much fight and how much determination that kid has. He just seemed so happy out there, enjoying himself. He's a really good golfer and I really enjoyed spending time with him.

It was quite a special moment spending those nine holes with him.

Q. Last time the tournament was played here in November a year and a half ago and you absolutely had to hit fairways. The course has changed some, there's hardly any rough now. Does this course, is it more forgiving off the tee and does this favor long hitters?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yes and yes. It's not a good week to throw your back out because this is going to be a grip and rip it, bomb it down as far as you can because there isn't that challenging rough that you had to hit fairways in the previous years. So now it's just really who can hit it the farthest and then take advantage of that and then obviously make the most putts.

This course still has a bunch of defense around the greens. The greens are challenging around, you know, if you miss the green up-and-downs are tough. You know, if you're hitting it good and far, it's a huge advantage.

Q. A couple of things. Have you got to watch Full Swing and kind of how you were portrayed in the show in season two?

WYNDHAM CLARK: I still haven't watched it. I feel uncomfortable watching myself on TV, I don't like hearing myself talk. And I also lived it, so I don't know, I've just always kind of been always been weird watching myself. So I haven't watched it, but I've heard some good feedback from friends and family and they really liked it.

Q. Who do you think on Tour that would be maybe good down the road or someone that fans who watch the sport would get to know better if they were featured on that show for future seasons?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Let me think, give me a second. Put me on the spot.

I can't think of anyone specifically right now, but I think there's a bunch of up-and-coming good players that are coming out that I think is just great to showcase how college players and guys coming off the Korn Ferry can come up to the big leagues and win and have a lot



of success right away. So I would love to see some of those guys get their time on Netflix.

And even someone, just came to mind, like Peter Malnati. He's been out here for a long time and has been grinding and trying to keep his card every year and just broke out and won last week. Stories like that that I think helps grow our Tour, that it's not just top players that people get to see, but we're very deep out here. I think that would be great for golf.

Q. About a year ago or so you were still in a category of playing in additional events at times. Is it kind of crazy at all thinking how quickly your, I guess, place in the game has changed? And when you think about that time, like would you have envisioned this being kind of the spot you're in a year later?

WYNDHAM CLARK: It is -- I mean, it is crazy to think that just 12 months ago I was -- you know, hadn't had a first PGA TOUR win and was still ranked outside the top-50 in the world and in such a short time have done a bunch. But I've always thought and believed in myself that I could be in this position, so I'm not shocked by any means.

But it is amazing to look back and go, wow, in such a short time, won three times and won a major and played on a Ryder Cup team. So it has kind of been surreal and now it's become my new reality, which is pretty fun.

Q. If you had to pinpoint one particular thing that has allowed you to do that, what would it be?

WYNDHAM CLARK: I would just say, you've heard it probably in many interviews, but my ability to grow in the mental game and to be more positive out on the golf course and my best friend and talk to myself and not listen to myself has been a huge, huge growth in myself. I think that's what's helped me have success both on and off the golf course.

Q. You mentioned if Scheffler hadn't been in the field a couple weeks in a row that you might have had two more wins. He's in the field again this week. Do you have a good little rivalry going with Scottie or anything? And just talk about what he means to the game being so good and everything and how good can he really -- what's his ceiling?

WYNDHAM CLARK: Yeah, I would love for us to be battling it out every week because Scottie is the No. 1 player in the world. He's a great person. Scottie and I are friends, I really enjoy him. He's kind of the -- he's the meter right now of us trying to get to be as good as he is. He hits it better than everyone else and now he's starting to putt good. It's amazing to watch him play and see what he can do. He's pushed me to get better.

As far as rivalry, we don't have one, but it would be fun if every week we were battling it out and I win one week, he wins the other week. I would take that right now, that would be pretty awesome.

