PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: KIRK TRIPLETT (5-UNDER) May 5, 2017



Q. Tell me about your round. Great day!

KIRK TRIPLETT: Thanks. You know the course is real tricky. It's a tricky course without any wind, and then this north wind, I think most of us are more used to a south or southeast wind around here, but it makes the harder holes easier and some of the easier holes harder. But still obviously a chance to have good scores, as evidenced by Tom, shooting very low. I'm thrilled with the way I played. I drove it in play, kept the ball pin high, guessed right a couple of times, made a really good save after a tee shot into the water. Made a couple nice birdies on 16, 17 coming in.

Q. Can you take me through your birdies through the round?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Birdied the first hole, knocked it in the front bunker in two. Pitched it out maybe 4, 5, 6 feet, made that. I birdied No. 4. Hit a 3-wood and a pitching wedge, made a nice putt, 20-footer down the hill.

Hit an 8-iron on No. 12 to about 5 feet, made that. Nice save on 15, drove it in the right hazard off the tee, and then made about a 15- 20-footer after playing up and wedging it on there. Hit it about 6 feet on 16, made birdie, and about 10 feet on 17 and made birdie.

Q. What makes the course so tricky? Everyone says it's that typical risk/reward.

KIRK TRIPLETT: There is some of that. I think the number one thing is when you make a mistake it can certainly be a double, right? Because of the hazards.

Q. Right.

KIRK TRIPLETT: And you have that at least half a dozen times during the day.

The other thing is the wind on the top of the trees is sometimes different than the wind down in the trees. It's very difficult to be around. It's always been that way here. I don't know why. There is just something about this place. The wind seems to blow in circles a little bit

Q. Does the course suit your eye?

KIRK TRIPLETT: I've had success here over the years and for me it holds a special place and always will. This is where I got my TOUR card in 1989. So I've been coming here for a long time and probably familiarity as much as anything makes you enjoy it. But, yeah, I've had some success.

Q. What are you expecting tomorrow?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, it's hard to figure. If the winds calm down a little bit, the scores get a little bit better.

But this Tour, somebody always finds a way to shoot 15-under or so, and that's all you're looking at when you're playing around here. You got to put up -- I had 5-under today, and I want to put up another 3, 4, 5, 6-under tomorrow, and then I got to be prepared to kinda do it again on Sunday, unless you get really bizarre conditions. Happy to get off to the good start.