ROUND 2 INTERVIEW February 9, 2019



MARCO DAWSON (-11)

Q. Here with Marco Dawson. Six birdies and a bogey, but tell me about that second shot at 18. What a classic shot that was.

MARCO DAWSON: Well, you know, you've got to get lucky on shots like that. I was just trying to get it at least to the hole and past the hole. I didn't want that short with no room left, so I wanted to make sure I got there so I took enough club.

Also, at the same time I thought if I hit it good and solid and it's low, I can bounce it up there, and that's just what happened.

Q. It came out just perfectly. They're showing it right now, a great result of that. Now, did you think you made that putt?

MARCO DAWSON: Yes. About halfway I thought it looked really good, and then at the end it just wiggled off to the side. You know, I think the greens are fast enough that you can't be too aggressive, especially downhill. They're just going to kind of lose their direction when they're slowing down. It was a good chance. I wasn't expecting to be there, so it was a great chance.

Q. You've got a couple wins on this tour, one at Sunningdale not that long ago. Will you take that experience from Sunningdale into tomorrow?

MARCO DAWSON: Well, you know, second half of last year I started playing better and I noticed that I kind of reflected that I played less aggressively toward the end of last year and I was more comfortable with the shots into the greens. I'm still hitting the driver well, but less aggressive.

So I thought it seemed to work last year, so I started off doing the same thing this year and not pressing, not trying to hit it close all the time and just not trying to be too perfect and it's just worked out better so far just being less aggressive.

Q. What do you think of your position after two rounds here?

MARCO DAWSON: It's great. You want to be in that kind of position, right, so you can afford a few mistakes here and there. The closer you are to the lead, the fewer -- I mean the more room you have, wiggle room. Yeah, it's nice to be in that position again, it's been a while.

Q. A lot different day today than yesterday. The wind a big factor?

MARCO DAWSON: Yeah. When it gets like this, at least for me, I try and go out and just try and hit the ball solid and not take any chances, hit a lot to the middle of the greens. And then when it feels right, then go ahead and be aggressive. But for the most part, when you're a little too aggressive with wind like this, it can bite you.

I kind of got a little aggressive on 16 there, hit it a little right and I hit it down that hill. I hit a good shot fortunately, but I should have played a little farther left. So that's the kind of thing that you try to avoid. I've been doing pretty good so far with that and not really hit any bad shots. Hit a couple here and there, but just nothing too hard today being as windy as it is. I was pretty happy with it.

Q. One of the guys you're going to have to beat tomorrow is Bernhard. Just talk about that.

MARCO DAWSON: Well, you know, I can't -- I have no effect on his game, right? He's got to play his own game. I just know I have to play good. So I have no control over what he's going to do. If he shoots 62, then he shoots 62. He could shoot 72 or 75. But he's a great player and he's playing well, so yeah, he's going to be tough to beat.

Q. Did you say you made a little bit of a mental change in your approach here?

MARCO DAWSON: Yeah, the second half of last year kind of was wondering why I hadn't played any better since the two wins that I had in '15. I just noticed that I was a little too aggressive, so I figured I'll just back off on that, being too aggressive, and see what happens.

It seemed to pay off. I didn't have as many bogeys, as many double bogeys, but I had pretty much just as many birdies. You have fewer bogeys, your scores are going to be better. But when I was really confident in some of those tournaments last year, I was aggressive, but I think I was a little too aggressive on the weeks that I wasn't playing all that well.

Q. How do you approach tomorrow then?

MARCO DAWSON: Well, just kind of the same way. You know, depends on what the wind's doing, right? You've got to throw that in first. If it's going to be really windy, then I'm going to do the same thing, I'm just going to try and hit the ball solid, hit middle of the greens and go from there. If it's not windy, then you've got to be aggressive. There's going to be a lot of low scores. It just depends what the wind is, where the pins are. Some of the pins were a little easier today, seemed like they were just in the right spot for the right wind on those holes. Just take it whenever -- whenever it comes tomorrow, we'll have to figure it out then.