FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW February 10, 2019



GARY NICKLAUS (+1)

GARY NICKLAUS: I didn't play much different than yesterday, I just didn't have the big holes. You know, it was fun. Played a lot of college golf with Steve, played some with him on tour, so it was great to be with him. Don won the qualifier. He's actually real good friends with my caddie and we played a lot in the Florida stuff the last few years, so good group today.

Q. Just talk about the experience, how the week went in your mind.

GARY NICKLAUS: First day was really nice to get out on a good start. Kind of showed myself and everybody else that, hey, I can still get out there.

Next couple days was more of a grind. I didn't play great, but it's a learning experience. I got one good round in, one halfway, one bad. So next time out, hopefully I'll get two good rounds in and then eventually get three good rounds in.

Q. What did you learn most about your game this week?

GARY NICKLAUS: That these guys are really good putters. I mean, they putt so good, it's unbelievable.

Q. Does your experience over the past three days make you look forward even more to continuing this new chapter, this next chapter of your --

GARY NICKLAUS: Absolutely. I mean, the guys out here, it's been a very warm welcome from the guys. A lot of guys that I haven't seen in a long time are like, man, we're glad to see you out here, good luck, just go at it. I mean, Rocco and Brad were great the first day and it's a fun place to be. It's not the same atmosphere as the Tour. I'm not saying the Tour's a bad atmosphere, but it's not the same. You've got a bunch of guys out here that enjoy being out here, enjoy being with each other. It's fun, it was a great week.

Q. Did you learn anything at all? I know you've been golfing for a long time, but did you possibly learn anything about yourself over the past three days just being in this different type of forum?

GARY NICKLAUS: I need to putt better, but I've been saving that my whole career.

Q. It's hard to get starts out here. What can you do to work on your game while you hope to get some more exemptions?

GARY NICKLAUS: I mean, I'll be at home, I'll be working on my game. As far as what I need to do, I need to really focus on my putting, speed. I was actually pretty good today with my return putts, but my speed wasn't great. If you leave yourself three- and four-footers all day long, you're going to have some three-putts. I made them all today, but when you watch guys like the first day, Brad's one of the best putters out here and has been for years. I mean, his speed is just right at the hole every time and he's never stressing out about the second putt, and the first putt's always looking like it's going to go in.

Q. Have you heard from any other tournaments yet about exemptions or they want you to come, anything like that?

GARY NICKLAUS: Not yet. Just one, which is actually in August, I think. I think it's the Dick's Sporting Goods. It used to be the BC Open. What is that, up in En-Joie?

Q. Yeah.

GARY NICKLAUS: Endicott, New York. I know when I was on Tour, BC Open was opposite the British Open and didn't have a great field and the golf course wasn't great. Apparently they've redone the golf course and all the guys I've talked to said it's one of the best tournaments out here, so really looking forward to that.

Q. So Monday qualifier?

GARY NICKLAUS: I'll do a few.

Q. This week?

GARY NICKLAUS: I wasn't -- I'm kind of finding my ropes and figuring out when I have to enter and do things. I missed the entry, I believe. But I'm playing the Lost Tree pro-am tomorrow with my parents. Fundraiser tomorrow.

Q. Was GT out here at all?

GARY NICKLAUS: Yeah, he's here.

Q. To have both your son and your father and your mom, just the whole family affair thing?

GARY NICKLAUS: And my little girl.

Q. And your baby girl. You've never played a professional round with all that type of support, all that love. What was that experience like for you just to have everyone here?

GARY NICKLAUS: It's fantastic. My parents have always been very supportive of

everything that I've done and with my brothers and sisters. To be old enough to have your kids Drive down and watch you play, and the other big thing is to get teenagers out of bed for an early tee time on a Sunday morning, which they both did without me even waking them up, so it was good.

Q. And none of them ran on the green, either?

GARY NICKLAUS: No.