

**KIRK TRIPLETT (-9)**

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**Q. So it felt like out there that the conditions changed when the wind kicked up.**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Is that what it felt like to you?

**Q. Yeah.**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** That's what it felt like to me, yeah. It started blowing 15 miles an hour or so, so kind of hard to pick out which way it was coming. Since it was coming from the west and the south, it kind of gets blocked and swirls around on the back side of this hill. So it's just something we haven't seen this week, but we've certainly seen it before.

**Q. How much more difficult did that make things?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I think it just throws uncertainty in there for you. Some of the pins are tucked and all of a sudden you see a guy hit a shot that looks pretty good and it sails over the green, and the next guy hits one that looks pretty good that ends up short. You don't have that same, you know, when you're playing that golf where the ball goes all the same all the time, you just don't have that confidence. You've got to adjust your targeting a little bit, play a little more conservative.

**Q. I was going to say, do you adjust your mentality a little more, are you thinking par more so than birdie?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** We don't really think score, we think target. So I think you've got more confidence in your targeting, and this could typically be a course where you're pretty aggressive most of the time.

**Q. Your tee shot on 18 ended up kind of on the far left side of the fairway. Is that where you were trying to hit it?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** No. I try and go right down the spine with a little cut. Just pulled it a little bit and I hit the top of the spine and went to the left. A lot of years that ball goes into the water, but into the wind today, I felt, you know, I didn't know for sure that it hadn't made it, but I knew there was a chance.

**Q. So when you found out that it was still up --**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** I was quite happy, yeah, because I didn't get a signal from the marshal, so I didn't know. I was prepared for either one.

**Q. That's actually a good position if you're --**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, a good position is right in the middle of the fairway just to the right of the spine. That's where we're all trying to get to. Anything on green grass is a good position on 18.

**Q. Sure, sure, that makes sense. Your front nine, you started off fairly well.**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Yeah, I had a hot start, hit some nice shots, hit it close a couple of times. Made one putt and a good par save. Then I just, I had some chances on the back. I made one putt and kind of butchered No. 11, but other than that, I just had a lot of good birdie putts and just didn't knock them down.

**Q. Speaking of changing weather, you live in Scottsdale, you know what the weather's been like in Arizona for the last 10 days or so. What do you make of all the changes we've had around here?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I don't know. El Niño. I've been around here a long time, so I've seen some winters like this before where it just doesn't let go, you know. It just seems to be one of those years. I don't know if it's El Niño or not, but it's some kind of different weather pattern, for sure. It's definitely cooler. My wife and I spent some time in Mexico last week, expected it to be in the 80s, a lot of days it was still in the 60s, so it's not just here, it's all over the west.

**Q. You won the last Tucson Open PGA TOUR event here in 2006, which was also your last PGA TOUR victory. What do you remember about that?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I remember shooting really low the last two days. I think I shot 64-63. I think I barely made the cut, was going to be home and just decided -- my wife convinced me to stay up here and do some practicing and be ready for the weekend and whatever. I hit on something, it worked and just played really well so I posted a good score. I think I birdied the first six holes on Sunday and made some birdies in the middle of the back nine, got the lead and nobody caught me.

**Q. So you figured you were toast after whatever --**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, two rounds, I think, you know, the leader after two rounds was probably 12 or 13 under and I was probably 3. I was just thinking, well, I'll go home and spend the night at home and race back down in the morning. But put some practice time in instead. I've done that other times, too, and it hasn't worked out the same. There's not necessarily a causal connection.

**Q. What's your outlook heading into tomorrow?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, first off, wait and see what the weather's like. A number of the pin placements get tougher on Sunday, but usually on Sunday they give you something to shoot at. So it's all about taking advantage of the holes that are there and playing smart on the holes where it's tough.