

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**March 10, 2019**



**KIRK TRIPLETT ( -10, won 2<sup>nd</sup> playoff hole)**

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**KIRK TRIPLETT:** I played in the Crosby Southern and my partner was a man that many of you may know from here in Orange County, a man named Tom Casey. Every year I've come back here, he would keep in touch with me, would tell me all about his travels, and he was one of my great fans. I always kept in touch with him, I would always go have dinner with him, and this year I didn't get to have dinner with him. So he passed away, and this is for him.

You guys have it all here in Orange County. I'm sure you've been told that before, but for a professional golf tournament, you've got great weather. Well, yeah. You've got a great golf course, fantastic clubhouse, great staff here. Took great care of us all week. I didn't break the record for cookies this year, but I may have tied it.

**Jeff and his staff do a great job every year. There's always somebody waiting to pick me up at the airport and somebody waiting to take me back, and there's a car for me, hotel reservations. They just make it really easy. It's really great for the pros.**

You have a great partner, and these tournaments, you need a hook, a connection to the community. My years playing the pro-am here, I played with many people from Hoag Hospital and I know that they make a big difference in this community, so thank you for supporting them.

Volunteers, man, where would we be without you? Thank you, guys. There's always an army of you no matter what. So fantastic, thank you very much for your help.

Sponsors, Konica Minolta and City National Bank.

**Q. That's the way to close it out, three great shots?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Yeah, got a couple tries at it. Yeah, we both hit great shots in regulation. They just hit that kikuyu edge there. Very easily Woody's ball could have kicked up there three feet from the hole for eagle. I was fortunate to make a putt and get in the playoff.

**Q. How difficult was that putt, the one to get into the playoff?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I mean, it's always hard to make a putt to get in a playoff, but you're not worried about missing it really. You're going to play plenty of break, I'm going to get it up the hill, I'm not trying to two-putt it. So in some ways that takes a little bit of pressure off because I think we've been playing the back nine mostly, you know, not trying to run it three or four feet by because the greens are dicey. So I was less worried about speed on that one

and rolled it right in the center.

**Q. Kind of thought the hole location on 18 was similar on Saturday, so in a sense did you feel like you saw the same putt maybe two to three times?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, Saturday's pin was over on that other shoulder and a little bit more accessible. This one sits right on that saddle where, if you go long, you go 15 feet long. You know, so you just see a lot of guys 15 feet short of that pin from what looks like pretty easy places to pitch from. I've seen it, I've played here six or seven times and I've seen it many, many times just like that.

**Q. Your chip reacted completely differently, too.**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, yeah. Some of them spin coming up the hill. Depends on your lie, you've got to judge the lie. I had a really awkward chip. I had no stance, and playing it behind my right foot and trying to run it through, but I didn't want to run it over the green, I wanted to leave that 10- or 15-footer uphill if I were to miss.

So it was kind of a tournament -- if anybody made two or three birdies on the back nine, they would have taken control. We had our chances and neither one of us could get a stranglehold on it. I feel pretty lucky to have just had a chance to be in the playoff.

**Q. That shot in regulation when you were kind of near the sand trap, you kind of hesitated a little bit like you weren't sure kind of what your stance should be. It was kind of an awkward shot, right?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, yeah, I couldn't pitch it normally. It's a very straightforward shot. You just land it on the edge of the green and let it roll down to the hole, but you need to be able to slide your wedge underneath it and I couldn't get a stance that allowed me to do that. At first I was trying to move the ball way up in my stance so I could pop it up in the air, and I just thought that was going to be too risky. I thought with my balance being bad, I would have trouble and potentially chunked it, so I just played it off my back foot and tried to roll it up there. I was quite happy with the shot.

**Q. Looked like you changed clubs?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Yeah, I went to a less lofted club so I could make sure that it would roll through.

**Q. And he was stunned his rolled 15 feet past?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** He had a really not very good lie, either. The ball was sitting down and you've got to carry it on the green, and the first bounce for his, it just took off. And the minute it bounced hard, I'm sure he knew it, too, but I knew it was going to be towards the back of the green. It's just a tricky spot, it's a tricky golf course.

**Q. You talked about dedicating this victory. Could you tell us more with that story?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, like I said, I played here in 1988, 1989 and the small tournament, it was called the Crosby Southern when I played in it. Later it was called the Taco Bell. The first year I played I played with this man, Tom Casey. He's from here and seems to know everybody in this area. He would come and watch me play when I played in San Diego, and my wife and I became good friends with him. We kept in touch with his family over the years.

When I first came back here, like the year before I turned 50, he sent me stuff about Newport Country Club when I was 49. He said, okay, next year this week you and I are going to have dinner together. So I had dinner with him every year, and then he just passed away this past year.

**Q. This is a nice touch, the lab coat?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** This is pretty cool, yeah. You might have a hard time getting this off of me.

**Q. Doctors got to be precise. You were pretty much, you know, right there with the putter.**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, yeah. Those two putts I made -- Woody had a very makeable birdie putt to extend it, so I wasn't just trying to make a 4 and make him make his, I was trying to make that putt to end the tournament. And it was the exact same putt I had the first time through.

**Q. McCarron had a putt as well to kind of join the playoff. So he had an eagle he missed and a little birdie that he missed, but he made par. So obviously it's exciting for the fans when it comes down to the 18th hole.**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** He and I were kind of in a dogfight last week in Tucson for second place. He's been playing well obviously. Guys, they get on a run and play well for three or four weeks at a time.

**Q. When Woody knocked it on 15 in two, did it look like you were going to go down a couple?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Yeah, I hit such a poor shot into that hole. I really -- it just caught the limb of the tree. It was going to be in the bunker right next to the green, but it would have been a difficult up-and-down. It would have been easier than where it ended up.

Yeah, I was very surprised when he three-putted that hole. He had nice shots most of the day. A putt here or there goes in for him and he's up there and you can't catch him. That's

this course. It's like that every year, you think somebody's going to shoot 15, 16, 18, 20 under and they never do and 10, 11, 12 wins a lot.

**Q. Quinn was 11 under going in and if he plays even, he wins, right?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Yeah, it's his golf tournament to win at the start of the day. He shoots under par, he wins the golf tournament.