

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
May 31, 2019



DARREN CLARKE (-5)

Q. So, first off, how was the walk out there today at Wakonda for you?

DARREN CLARKE: Might be a cart tomorrow (laughs.) It was good. When you play nicely, the walk's always okay. It was certainly a little bit hilly, but I think the guys did an awesome job of getting the golf course as dry as they have. I mean, the grounds crew, just an unbelievable job. It was a tough walk, but a good walk.

Q. You talked about the putter needing to be right today. It looked like it was on there down the stretch. How happy were you with that?

DARREN CLARKE: Yeah, I putted nicely today. I hit a lot of really good putts; some went in, some that didn't go in. Got a little bit caught out there on the first eight holes because I haven't played the first eight holes before. I haven't been here before. So with the weather we had, they weren't playing the pro-am. Drove around and saw the holes, but you can't really see the greens and all that sort of stuff.

Made a bad bogey on 1, which is my 10th, because it was the wrong club off the tee because I didn't know the hole well enough. But all in all, you know, I hit a lot of nice shots. A couple of poor ones, but got away with them and you need to do that.

Q. How much of today was a combination of playing well, but also just kind of what you needed to do? In other words, was this, the 67, was that the number that the course was allowing today?

DARREN CLARKE: Yeah, I think the greens are perfect out there, so if you're on your numbers and if you're hitting it close, you're going to make a lot of putts. Chris DiMarco's obviously made quite a few putts. There are quite a few guys out there that are making putts. The course was there for a score. There was nothing tricky. You had to drive it in the fairway. If you drove it in the fairway, you had chances. That's the way it should be.

Q. The birdie putt you made on 18, your ninth hole, the way you stood over that and it went in, you just sensed that that gave you a little shot of energy with that putter, like, you know, it feels good?

DARREN CLARKE: I putted nicely, I hit a lot of really good putts. That purchase from the store the other day is working so far.

Q. How do you continue this into Saturday now?

DARREN CLARKE: Just go and -- a couple of drivers got a little bit underneath, so I'll go and do a little bit of work on the range and rest up a little bit and try and do the same tomorrow.

Q. You just bought your putter; is that what you're saying?

DARREN CLARKE: Yeah. Went to the store the other day. None of them were really performing that well last week at Oak Hill, so I decided I'll just go into the store and buy another one.

Q. You bought one here in town?

DARREN CLARKE: Yeah, I went into Golf Galaxy and just bought one. Just went and bought one.

Q. Did anyone know who you were?

DARREN CLARKE: John in there did. There was a guy called John. John was good. He came up to me, he said, "What are you doing in here?" I said, "Well, they didn't work too good." He said, "Mark Calcavecchia started this a few years ago."

Q. He did, yeah.

DARREN CLARKE: Anyway, I went in there and took a look at them and picked one up and it sort of worked today.

Q. See, now he, Calcavecchia, wore bacon pants in the last round. Would you go that far to win a tournament?

DARREN CLARKE: I don't know how far I would go. I need to see them first.

Q. Are you sticking with that putter the rest of the way?

DARREN CLARKE: Well, there's no need to change that right now, but we'll see. Sometimes they go in and sometimes they don't, and today a few went in.