

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
September 21, 2019



KIRK TRIPLETT (-6)

Q. Obviously it was a firm golf course today. How did you deal with that?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, you're guessing. There's a lot of uncertainty and I think that shows in the scores, although you did see a number of scores, guys shooting 3, 4, 5 under today more so than yesterday. It was certainly easier than yesterday, I would say.

Q. How do you -- when you have kind of a thick leaderboard there, a lot of people who have some access to the lead tomorrow, how do you grab onto, I don't know if aggressiveness is it or assertiveness? How do you use --

KIRK TRIPLETT: I think for me, I wasn't playing great but I wasn't playing terrible and I knew nobody was going to go out there and get to 10 under, right? So okay, I can hit the ball to 30 feet, just take what I get. I ended up hitting one close on the last hole.

I had some chances coming in, didn't quite make them, but I knew I was going to be near the lead. I didn't know I was going to be one of the leaders, right, but I felt comfortable even if I ended up the day 3 or 4 under total that I would have a chance to win the tournament tomorrow.

That's what all of us are trying to do, it's such a cliché that you're trying to get -- oh, the tournament starts on the back nine on Sunday. But if you're seven shots out standing on the 10th tee on Sunday, you're pretty much out of it. If you're two or three out of it, you are right in the middle of it. So that's what everybody's trying to get to.

Yeah, it would be great to have a five-shot lead standing on the, you know, the 10th tee, but you've still got to win it. I don't see anybody going out and shooting 10 under unless conditions change drastically, it's just too hard to get the ball close to the hole.

Q. Kirk, you'll be co-leader going into the final round. Are you surprised how really difficult this golf course is playing?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, you know, the wind's blowing, the greens are firm and there's as much rough here as I think we had at the U.S. Open. You sort of combine those three things, a little bit of uncertainty with the firmness of the greens and yeah, it's hard to get the ball close.

Q. Talk about the firmness of the greens. What adjustments are you having to make to actually get the ball close?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, you're trying to watch the group in front of you because some of the greens are holding and some of the greens are bouncing really hard. You know, on the 17th hole today I watched two guys chip from over the green, so I'm thinking, all right, I think it's a 5-iron but it's probably a really, really easy 5-iron, right, because most of us see the course the same way and you can sort of learn stuff from the other guys that play. I think I'm paying more attention to other players than I typically do.

Q. You see these scores like they are, it's got to be playing into your hands. I think it's a golf course that you like, that plays tough. Is it falling into your place right now?

KIRK TRIPLETT: I like it when it's a little nitty gritty, you know, where you've got to think a little bit. Maybe a lot of times you have to play a little more conservative, that fits my kind of M.O.

But for me this week, I've been struggling with my driver, so I've been lucky I haven't hardly had to hit any drivers. And the times I hit driver, it's been not great results, so I'm going to go get some work in this afternoon on that. But as far as I like it tough, I like it when par's a good score.