



ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
October 11, 2019

DOUG BARRON (-6)

Q. Not the finish to the round that you wanted, but how do you feel like you played overall today?

DOUG BARRON: I played good. I got here early and played the Monday pro-am just so I could get to know the course again. It's just really firm and fast. Obviously I hit a lot of great shots the first nine and then I made an awesome putt on the ninth hole, which could easily have gone 10 feet by. I played solid all day. I got away with a bad tee ball at 10 and ended up making birdie, or No. 1, I guess. Just played great.

And, you know, the thing is, you don't have to necessarily hit a bad shot for this course to jump up and bite you. There's a lot of trouble out there, but if you're hitting it good, it's gettable and I was getting all I could. I made a little bogey with that wedge and I hit a perfect drive on the par 5 and all of a sudden the game turned around.

But I'm really pleased with the day. If you told me I'd shoot 6 under when I started, I'd have taken it. The course is really dry and the greens are as fast as any greens we've putted all year.

So I'm pretty pleased with the way I play. Not pleased with the way I finished, but like I said, if I could have taken 6 under when I started, it would have been great just. I just misjudged that wedge on the last hole, but I hit it pure. So I'm pretty pleased with pretty much everything I did today. I putted really nice. I'm not going to let one missed little putt deter the way I'm thinking, so it was a fun day. I had fun.

Q. Talk about your year since you turned 50.

DOUG BARRON: Well, I've had a fun 50. Well, I played what's called the Emerald Coast Tour up until I was 50 and I won three of those from start to finish this year. And then I went over and Monday qualified for the Senior British and was co-medalist and then finished fifth. Had a chance with four holes to go. Bernhard birdied and I made a couple bogeys. Besides that, it was a great start.

Then I came over and I pre-qualified for Dick's and qualified and then won wire to wire, so that was a huge booster. I played pretty solid since. I've got a couple health issues I'm not willing to talk about right now. My back's hurting right now, but I've been diagnosed with something that I'll talk about here in the next week. It's something I've got to maintain. Just haven't had much energy lately.

But man, I'm having a ball out here. These guys are amazing. One, you're playing with Hall

of Famers, some of the greatest to ever play the game. You're playing with guys like Scott McCarron and other guys that are just winning every other week, so these guys are incredible. You can slip a little, but you better make a lot of birdies when you do slip. So I'm having a really good time.

I'm trying to figure out ways to get better. I couldn't be more pleased with what I'm doing. I don't like finishing 22nd like I've done the last few weeks. Last week I took a few days off and I busted my butt and I worked hard and just trying not to finish 22nd again. I'd like to have a chance to win again. It's a lot of fun out here when you're winning.

Q. How would you describe the last 10 years? It's been challenging, I'm sure.

DOUG BARRON: I've actually been very happy. I fired myself about seven or eight years ago from golf. I had had five shoulder surgeries and I had my incident with the Tour where I was taking testosterone two and a half years before our drug policy came out and they denied me the right to take it. You know, no hard feelings there.

I've had a great time. I've gotten to see my 13-year-old grow up. I've gotten to spend a lot of time with my 18-year-old. He traveled the Tour with us until he was 6, but I missed a lot of his childhood. I've gotten to spend a lot of time with my wife. I've been married for 23 years. A lot of positives. I taught golf for five years, I have another business that I do at home as well, a merchant service business. I've been very happy.

But I just felt like it was a blessing that I could go do this again and I saw the opportunity and I'm trying to take advantage of it. I would say it's been a dream come true for the last two months, honestly. I can't really fret over three bogeys when I really am having the time of my life. It's pretty cool.