ROUND 1 INTERVIEW February 14, 2020

MARK BROOKS



MARK BROOKS: I putted great. I drove it terrible. But fortunately for me, the course is kind of short, so I kept it sort of in play. I got off to a good start, I birdied the first four. Let's see, three pretty good shots, and one may have -- made a putt on the fourth. Didn't hit a great wedge, made a 20-footer.

Q. 20-footer?

MARK BROOKS: Yeah, for the fourth one, you know what I mean. And then just kind of scraped it from there. Hit a wedge close on 1, off another not-very-good drive, like to three feet. And then hit a nice shot into 2. And then I was kind of struggling from there.

But the tougher part of the golf course probably is 6 through 9. If there is --

Q. If there is a tough part?

MARK BROOKS: Yeah. If you're going to bugger them up, you can make a bogey or two.

Q. You avoided till 18, what happened?

MARK BROOKS: I hit a bad drive. Said, "Let's not go right," it went right.

Q. That will happen.

MARK BROOKS: Yeah. Power of suggestion.

Q. Maybe you'll have some fun this weekend.

MARK BROOKS: I'll get my driver straightened out. I hit more good shots than I thought I would. I mean, Morocco was the only time I played in four months. I hadn't played in four months, so --

Q. So you're still not going to rest on it.

MARK BROOKS: Yeah. You know how a lot of us out here -- I'm not alone, there's -- we kind of know how to play. We kind of know how to play golf, especially when you get a course like this where it's not going to bite you or scare you. It's not going to overglare mediocre driving or -- for example. I mean, you got to hit some pretty

good iron shots to make birdies here, for sure. These aren't like they're just big old huge greens, but --

Q. But this isn't Riviera in Los Angeles.

MARK BROOKS: No, no. It's pretty generous off the tee. Awfully good thing for me.

Q. He mentioned you were kind of going through your equipment right before, trying to decide what you were going to --

MARK BROOKS: Well, I just -- like I said, I'm just sort of -- I'm sort of starting to get stuff lined up again. Like I said, I didn't play, I didn't really care what I had. I have been working with a lot of juniors and better players. I have given away all my stuff. I mean, I'm serious. All my stuff, like, was gone. I'm like -- I'm digging around, I got like one set. I'm like, man, I can't go play these -- I've got '99s, you know, 1999 clubs. I mean, they got legal grooves, but I took them out one day and I went, "Nope, that won't work." So the Callaway rep was nice enough to give me his irons, his personal irons, so I'm playing those this week. Borrowed irons. Do you know Bovine? You know Opie?

Q. Yeah, yeah.

MARK BROOKS: He kind of brought them for guys to hit. And I live in Austin, so does he, so I can go over in his garage and do some swapping.

Q. Perfect. Thank you.

MARK BROOKS: Appreciate it.