

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
March 4, 2019



KIRK TRIPLETT

Q. When you reflect on your win here, what's the first thing that comes to mind?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, just another chance to go to Hualalai, I think. That's a big deal at my house. Sure, it's nice to win tournaments, but the reward of winning a tournament, I think that's what I think about a lot of times. What you get to do when you win a tournament, it's pretty neat.

Q. You had a nice story after your win about a local connection here, the win was maybe a bit more special because of that. Can you just kind of remind of us about that, that story?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, the connection just kind of happened that week. My caddie, Tommy Anderson, his son's a wonderful hockey player, so this week's the state tournament every year. He goes home and watches his son play in the state hockey tournament, which is a really big deal in Minnesota.

So I just kind of showed up the last couple years just kind of picking up whoever's available, right? Kind of whoever's in the parking lot. This happened to be a guy, Tim Quinn, who lives in this area and just retired from caddying a few years ago and was pretty excited to get out away from his regular job for a week, so it was pretty neat.

Q. So you had a little unique stretch kind of after the weeks that followed here. You withdrew at Rapiscan and then you went on to finish T-2 the next two events. Can you just take us through that stretch?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, that time of year I really was hitting the ball nicely almost every single week. I hate to say this, but I hurt myself in the fitness trailer on Wednesday at Rapiscan and I just never really recovered that week. I thought, you know what, I better get home and get this checked out. I was playing, but I wasn't playing very well.

Q. What was the injury?

KIRK TRIPLETT: I hurt my back. And I had hurt it earlier in the year as well, but this was something different, so I knew I kind of needed to get it checked out. So I went home, got it checked out, got some rest. Turned out it was just kind of a little tweak that just needed a little time off. Fortunately, my swing survived all of that and I really played pretty well until the middle of the summer.

Q. And you went on to win later in the season at Pebble Beach, two California wins.

Does winning that early in the year kind of set you up and just give you a better mindset would you say?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, after 30-plus years, you try not to get too excited about good early play or too panicky about early poor play. So I'm testing out the second half of that theory this year.

But I'm very comfortable in California. I mean, I've played enough golf on this poa annua, kikuyu. The west coast grasses, it's different from the rest of the country, and I don't always play well, but I've had some good success. So I'm just very comfortable on the left coast here.

Q. And finally, just your season today, how do you feel your game is coming into this week?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, I keep telling myself -- I told myself, well, my season's really going to start in Tucson this year, right, because it's just a couple of one-week tournaments. Then after playing Tucson, I'm like, well, maybe my season's going to start -- I keep pushing it back. It hasn't been -- you know, sometimes it sort of comes naturally and easy to you and this year's been a little bit more of a struggle. I can't really pinpoint any one part of my game, but I think maybe mentally I'm not where I was last year.