

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**January 16, 2020**



**WOODY AUSTIN (-7)**

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**Q. Walk us through the first nine, only one bogey.**

**WOODY AUSTIN:** Yeah, it was crazy. I got rid of a lot of things early in the year. I birdied the first hole of the year, I got the first three-putt out of way on the second hole of the year, and then I hit a couple good shots on the par 5 and had a simple two-putt for birdie. Made a really good par putt on 4 or on 5, so I was kind of a little up and down. Then a great shot on 7 to about 12 feet behind the hole, made that for eagle. Kind of got me jump started and I hit a great 4-iron into 9 six feet and made that.

Got really lucky on 10, hit my second shot left, caught the edge of the bunker, which slowed it down. I was in the rough and chipped that in for eagle. So, two eagles. Like I said, got lucky today, so that was good. I kind of just scrambled it around from there. Then I hit a great putt on the last hole.

**Q. Did you have any hint you had a 65 in the bag?**

**WOODY AUSTIN:** Oh, no. I need the wind so I'm glad the wind picked up. The only chance I have early in the year is for the conditions to be tough. I'm only in the second week of getting back to playing, so my game's not sharp. But if you throw the wind in there so I don't have to make normal full swings, I love to play with the golf ball so as long as I'm allowed to tinker with it, I can keep the ball in play.

If you're asking me to hit these full solid shots, I'm not ready for that yet so, I'm glad that the wind's there so I can just knock the ball down, try and control it, keep it in front of me, take advantage of the par 5s.

I made two eagles on the par 5s. I missed a lot of greens, but I kept the ball right around the edges. So I knew as long as the wind picked up I could kind of play okay, but I never saw that. But again, you don't see two eagles in a day and all that. It's the rarity that you always ask for. There's many, many times that you play better than you score. This was the rarity where I scored way better than I played, which some people never say that, but yeah, I scored way better than I played today.

**Q. In an event like this, you've got to do it three days in a row.**

**WOODY AUSTIN:** Absolutely. Oh, yeah. I still might get passed by Bernhard or Retief or somebody might even go by me as it is. That's why I need the wind. I need the wind where the only ones that are going to do it are only the guys that are playing really good or get away with thing like I did.

But that average score is not going to be at 5 and 6., so that's why I need the wind, to keep it that way, because I don't need all 38 guys being able to play the same way. If that's the case, then I would be down about 30. The key to me is the fact that I'm not stuck in one golf swing and one shot, I can hit them all, so when it's windy I get to get away with not being sharp. So it's great when it's windy.