

DARREN CLARKE (April 2)

(You won here in 2020. Talk about the course).

"It's always a pleasure to come back to a place you have played well at in the past. They obviously have made some major changes to the course since I won here, much for the better. They made it much tougher. I believe there's going to be some strong winds coming in, which is great, feel more like home. The course is in brilliant shape, so I'm looking forward to it."

(This is your fifth start of the year. Four top-20s and a top-10 last week. How would you describe your game?)

"The game is trending in the right direction. I'm hitting it nicely. Like any pro, you want to hole a few more putts. Not making that many. Also going at some flags I shouldn't go at out of frustration, but that's professional golf. "

(What are your thoughts about playing with an NFL Hall of Famer the first two rounds?).

"It's wonderful, something new for us. For James Hardie to come in as a new sponsor .. . To have these legends of the NFL to play with. My partner is DeMarcus (Ware). I played with DeMarcus in Dallas a few years ago. Looking forward to catching up with him. It's something new and different. Hopefully, the people who come out to watch will appreciate what the NFLers will do.

There's a few of them, the club looks like a thimble in their hands, they're so big and athletic and so strong."

(Strategy change)

"I will have a little fun with DeMarcus. He can hit it when he connects. Whatever DeMarcus says, he's much bigger and stronger. Whatever he says ... 'Yes sir, yes, sir.'

(Surprised at how obsessed pro athletes are with golf when they retire?)

No, a lot of them play when they're not retired. A lot of soccer players in UK play golf to get away from it. The attraction is you get out of the team environment. If you're having a bad day with a team, your teammates can help pull you out of it.

On the golf course, it's you against the golf course and that's it. Those Hall of Famers who have been the best of the best, they love the challenge. That's why they love the game so much.