



**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: MARK CALCAVECCHIA**  
**Saturday, August 27, 2011**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** There were some par 5s I could reach, you know, 8, par 5s and a few other short holes, so that's basically what happened. I managed to hit it on the green on 8, two-putt and made a six-footer on 12 and five-footer on 14 and finished birdie, eagle. So it just kind of happened that fast for me, so that was good.

**Q. The shot -- what club on 17?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** 17, I hit a 5-iron about 15 feet left of the hole and made that. Then 18, a good drive and a 3-iron, probably 17, 18 feet short left of the hole and it fell in on the last gasp so that was nice.

**MODERATOR:** Questions, guys?

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I'm done thinking about it, to tell you the truth. I don't know. Every week I just show up and play as hard as I can. We'll see. I won't say I'm overdue. I probably -- you know, I just haven't played good enough for three straight days or four straight days. I've come close obviously and was looking like I was going to get the job done and then hit a bad drive or whatever. So I'll go out tomorrow and try to be careful, just kind of pick my spots and be patient. I don't think you have to go super low on this course because the greens, they're so firm. I'm not going to change anything tomorrow. I imagine the course will be -- the weather, everything's going to be the same, so looking forward to it.

**Q. Is it frustrating not winning?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Not as a whole. In a couple tournaments I was pretty bummed out about it. You know, probably the one in Alabama at Shoal Creek, I guess I had a six-shot lead on Saturday at one point and I got around to the 12th hole on Sunday with a two-shot lead and made double on the same hole. I really played well all week. That was frustrating.

A couple certain events I had some chances, Des Moines, but Bob Gilder made the putts and played good, and a few others. All the times I've played out here I might have had a chance to win five of them seriously out of 28, whatever, I played. So I've got to get -- I've just got to get a big enough lead somewhere that I can afford to screw up. I've always been right around the edge.

**Q. How difficult would your golfing life have been if you hadn't won a major?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I would say zero. It was 23 years ago, you know? I mean, it doesn't do a thing for me today. My golfing life was great. I mean, they didn't even have the PGA Grand Slam of Golf back then, it was a voluntary deal. Certainly it was obviously my greatest achievement in golf and I look at that Claret Jug in my house quite a bit, but it really didn't change anything with the exception of a couple years right after that, then I just kind of fell into my normal, you know, routine.

**Q. I take it you're not surprised at the quality of play, the competitiveness of the plus 50s?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, not at all. I've been saying that all along. Obviously I'd been paying attention the last three or four years before I got out here and saw the scores and knew some of the courses the guys were playing and watched a little bit. I either figured the hole was a little bit bigger, you know, it was a quarter of an inch bigger and they didn't tell anybody or something was up. I didn't know. It didn't take me long when I got out here to see. Obviously everybody my age that I know that I've been playing with, you know, on -- O'Meara and Sluman and guys on the TOUR and Sindelar, I obviously knew those guys were great, Kenny Perry, obviously all those guys are still great so I knew the guys were great out here.

**Q. About three years out, your radar just all of a sudden extends and you're paying more attention?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I think so. The old 45 to 50, the limbo years, again, a guy like Kenny, he didn't have those; he had his best golf at that age. And I was certainly still competitive, I won when I was 47, but a lot of guys don't have a lot to do from the time they're 45 to 50. Some of them really don't have any status and they can get ...

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I liked it, I thought it was beautiful. You know, a handful of greens they need to start over with so that's pretty much today's -- you know, the way golf courses are built today, either they're insanely long or the greens are obscenely slopey. Today was beautiful, I really liked it.

**Q. Russ Cochran, is he one of those guys that --**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yeah, Russ didn't do a whole lot for a while in his middle to late 40s, but he's still in great shape. He looks like he did 10, 15 years ago. A lot

of that's the whole key to the deal. Russ turned 50 and all of a sudden he's out here playing, he's got some momentum going, and obviously he's playing as good as he ever has, I think. He's played great.

**Q. You're so competitive. Is it more fun playing on this Tour?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Oh, it's a lot more fun for me. I've played I think six TOUR events this year and missed five of the cuts; two of them I missed by a shot where I sat there all day Friday afternoon pulling my hair out, I'm in, I'm out, I'm in, I'm out. You know, 30 years of that, you know, I can make my plane reservations on this Tour. I'll still try to play a few TOUR events every year. I know Kenny plays a lot more, but you know, that's what he wants to do. I'd rather be out here.

**Q. At this point right now you're tied for the lead. Are you surprised that nobody's gone lower than 7-under at this point?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, not at all. The greens are tough. They're so firm, it's hard to get wedges close. And they're not easy greens to read, either. At least I don't think so. They look like they're going to break and then they don't and it's tough to make a lot of putts out here. No, I was just trying to hang around.

Like I said, when I didn't do anything good on the front, I knew there were some birdie holes on the back and I thought if I could shoot 2- or 3-under and get it to 4-, 5-under, I would still have a shot tomorrow and I just went birdie, eagle, so I went from where I was hoping to get to 7-under in a hurry.

**Q. Fred Couples is 2-under. Can he come back?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yeah, 65 is a long way here, I don't know if it's possible with the way the greens are, but certainly Freddie can go out and shoot 63 or 4 or 5 any day he plays. If 7-under continues to lead, that's not too far back at all. A lot of guys have won from 5 shots back.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. Kenny's up. Thank you, Mark.