



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: Mark Calcavecchia
Sunday, August 28, 2011

MODERATOR: Mark, if you can share some thoughts on the win after, you know, 30 starts.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah. Well, obviously, it's hard. I've always said it's hard to win out here and today was no exception. As it turned out, it could have been a little easier than it was. Russ was -- the guy's just tough, he's tough as nails. Just some good things happened to me today, for sure. I really only hit a couple bad shots all day. Holing out the bunker shot on nine and chipping in on 16, that actually -- the chip-in on 16 really kind of settled me down because I made a bad decision on 15, I should have just laid up. I keep doing that, you would think I would learn someday. Anyway, I made a 10-footer for par and just hit a bad sand wedge on 16, trying to keep it under the hole. Well, I did. I left it about 10 yards short of the green, but I hit a great chip and it went in. After that, I hit every shot great.

You know, sometimes it's just you're penciled in. I got some good breaks out there and I don't know if I was due, but I guess I kind of was. Sooner or later, everybody kept telling me, keep getting there, you'll win one sooner or later. Glad it happened.

MODERATOR: Birdies, number one.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Number one, good drive, average 4-iron just short right of the green but a pretty fast chip and I chipped it by about seven feet. Kenny Perry and Russ Cochran had the exact same putt just outside of me and they both missed low, so I played a little more break and made it right in the middle so I got a little read, a little teach there.

MODERATOR: Three?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: The third hole I bogeyed the last two days. It's almost an impossible driving hole for me because the fairway dogleg is left around the bunker and it slopes left to right. I hit one right down the middle the other day and it ended up in the right rough with a terrible lie.

Anyway, I hit a driver in the bunker yesterday so today I just decided I was going to hit

a 3-wood short of the bunker and hit one in the middle of the green and just two putt and get my four.

Well, I did exactly what I wanted to except I accidentally made the 40-footer for birdie. It was probably close to 40 feet, so that was great.

Four and five. Six, I hit a good 6-iron about 18 feet, straight right of the hole and made that. Seven, I hit a 5-wood off the tee and a hard sand wedge about 15 feet left of the hole and made that one. Then on eight, I didn't hit a very good drive in the right fairway bunker, but then I don't know what happened, I hit the worst shot of the day. I was just hitting a 9-iron out of there. I mean, there was a lip there but it really wasn't in play with a 9-iron and I just flatout sculled it, just dead-bladed it right into the lip. It hopped up, hit it down there, hit it on the green, two-putted for six.

Then I hit the wrong club on nine and I knew I hit the wrong club. It was just a hard 8-iron, but after making six on eight, I didn't feel like mishitting an 8-iron right in the pond so I hit a 7-iron. Beautiful shot. I flew it two feet from the hole but that immediately one-hopped in the back trap and tough bunker shot, no green to work with, and I just hit it perfect and it went right in the middle, so that was nice.

And just a bunch of pars. Had good birdie putts on 11 and 12 that I just missed. Actually made a good par on 14. I hit my 5 wood through the fairway in the hay and hit a miraculous shot from 42 yards just to even get it on the green and two-putted.

Then on 15 I made a bad decision, I should have just chipped a 7-iron down the fairway and had a sand wedge in there, but I tried to gouge a 5-wood out of the rough and roll it up towards the front of the green. I mean, the fairway's 60 yards wide but it came out left and I hit a flyer over the green and I chipped too easy and made a 10-footer for five, so that certainly helped.

Then 16, the short sand wedge but great chip-in probably 40, 45 feet.

17, I hit a beautiful draw 7-iron, landed right by the hole and just trickled off the back edge. And then Russ Cochran tried to make a hole-in-one. You know, the putt, the great news was it was downhill and it was just a -- I knew the read, it was just a question of how it went through about two and a half feet of fringe when the grass was leaning to the right, but evidently it went through the fringe pretty good because it was on line the whole way and it went right in the middle, so that was nice.

And then 18, great drive. I was intentionally playing short of the hole. Russ hit his rescue in there 12 feet behind the hole, the crowd was going crazy and I was going, oh, Jesus. I hit a 5-iron; it was a 4-iron but I hit a 5-iron thinking, well, I didn't want to be anywhere near even with the hole because I didn't know how close Russ was. Hit a good shot 40 feet short and came up about a ball short of making that. And then of course Russ made his.

Then, you know, I said, all right, hitting good shots, just riding up to the hill to the scoring tent and I'm like, You didn't have to make that. Every time he had to make a putt, he made it.

Anyway, back to 18 we go and we both hit good drives and I hit a 3-iron on the left fringe, good shot, happy with it. And Russ tried to hit a 3-iron also and I think he really tried to hit it too hard and got over the top of it and pull hooked it in the bunker and bad bunker shot for him. I was really expecting him to hit it close. Actually, when he was getting ready to hit it, I told my caddie, I said, Hopefully he cannot get this inside like seven feet; if he can just have a five-, six-, seven-footer that's missable instead of busting it up there close, because I had a tough putt through the fringe. And then when he hit it over the green, then I thought even he's probably not going to make that one. So I hit a great putt through the fringe right down there about six inches and I can make most of those.

MODERATOR: How far was that?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: The first putt?

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: 40 feet.

MODERATOR: The second was would you say --

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Six, eight inches, tap-in.

MODERATOR: How far was your putt on number 17, the 7-iron?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: At least 25 feet.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: It's a good guess.

MODERATOR: Okay. Questions, guys? Mike?

Q. To win in the fashion you did to end your personal drought, how satisfying was that?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Well, I mean getting the victory is the main thing, but then, you know, I think this will help me down the road. I have kind of let a few tournaments get away, I've let a lot of tournaments get away my whole career. I kind of have that fault, not that I'm not tough, but I just don't always play so great on the

back nine when I need to to make, you know, a great chip and a great putt and hit great shots on 18 both times, I think that will go a long way for me in the future. You know, when you want to cruise around the back nine next time, I know I'll have a chance to win so it was great, I think it will help me a lot, it was very important for me.

Q. When you've been in this position several times like you have, when you wake up this morning, what do you tell yourself and how do you prepare?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, I've had, you know, five or six good chances to win this year and I'm getting more relaxed, you know, when I wake up on a Sunday morning. I wasn't nervous or anything. Playing with Russ and Kenny is great. Russ never has any shortage of conversation. He's a great guy, he lives right around the corner from me down in Tequesta now. You know, I just -- the morning went by good. I downloaded some music, took a little nap, had a little lunch and just hit it great on the range. I felt great. I really didn't get overly anxious or too nervous. Maybe on 15 a little bit when I was kind of screwing that hole up and the wedge on 16, it was kind of a tension-filled wedge, but after that for some reason I felt great.

Q. It's kind of surprising because to me, knowing your history, that you would be nervous at this point in your career because you've been through everything so many times.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, you know, I guess it's a good thing. I think everybody gets a little nervous, you know? Russ didn't look like he was nervous. But, you know, we like to spend a lot of money and we're already looking at upgrading our new bus. We just bought a half a million dollar bus and now we're already looking for an upgrade.

Q. (Inaudible.)

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I looked at it and threw it right in the bag on Thursday, never hit a putt with it. I went to the putting green obviously and said, yeah, this looks good, I'll use this. I've been using the fatter grip. The stroke -- I'm drawing a blank, not Stroke Saver, but you know what I'm talking about, the fatter grip a lot of guys use now. Anyway --

Q. Is this putter going to stay around for a while?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, I really like this putter. It's Ping's new Answer line. They've got six of them, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and basically they're all Anser heads with different hosels. There's the regular Anser, there's one with the line cut out of it, I've got a little gooseneck in mine, there's one more heel-shafted. It's just basically the same putter with a different neck. There's the long neck one and the one that I'm using is called the Anser 3, and I did putt great all week. Haven't said that.

I've never asked Bob Rotella or Darren Clarke for any advice in my life, but putting yourself in a fog when you putt kind of works. Do you know what he's talking about? Not a fog, but, you know, what did he say, forget about mechanics and all this other stuff, just see it, hit it and don't worry about it and that's kind of what I tried to do all week and it worked great.

Q. How many putters do you think you've used in your career, do you have any idea?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I guarantee you more than anybody else my age that's been on Tour for 30-some years. You know, a thousand maybe. I don't know. A lot of them I still think about, a lot of them I still have and a lot of them I don't and I kind of sometimes wonder what happened. I know some of them are in the bottom of the ocean or various pond or lake or there's one buried in the garden at the Hilton Garden Inn out there. There's one buried in a rain gutter in Akron. They're all spread out all over the world. But this one I really like.

Q. Mark, Russ said that you had that sort of cannot-be-denied look about you today, the peripheral stuff wasn't going to get under your skin. Is that accurate, and do you let things get under your skin when you're playing golf?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, I do actually. It's one of my faults because I'm an emotional player. You know, when you lip out a few times and get a few bad breaks and all of a sudden I think I'm the unluckiest guy on the planet and sometimes it affects my game and sometimes it doesn't but that's just kind of the way I've been.

Today, you know, I knew I was playing good coming in here and I was looking forward to today just I kind of drove out here and said just play your best and don't worry about what anybody else is shooting and just focus on what you've got to do, the basic fault pattern.

Today I knew Russ was going to make those putts when he had to make them. He made the one on 14, he hit it close on 17, he knew he made it on 18, he hit a nice par putt on 13, you know. But on the other hand I just was thinking to myself, well, I'm playing good here and if I finish good I'm going to shoot 5-, 6-, 7-under and if that doesn't win, then it wasn't my time yet, I was okay with that and maybe that's partly what helped me, that I was okay. I'm sure I would have been bummed out as hell finishing second but on the other hand I would have gone oh, I just shot 7-under and tied for the lead and didn't win, what's up with that? I would have brushed it off and tried it again in Korea.

Q. How many houses between your house and Russ' house?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Maybe 10 or 12. Not many, there's eight between me and Olin's house, there's two between me and Camilo Villegas' house. There's a river

between me and Dustin Johnson. Lorena's around the corner. Rickie Fowler's up the river. Everybody's flocking over there, it's great, it makes for a lot of fun parties. A lot of guys like to bowl, too.

As a matter of fact, I texted Dustin Johnson yesterday aids congrats. I said, to the exact words, I said I'm winning tomorrow, too and then I'm going to kick your ass on the lanes. And he says all right, go get the win and I'm going to have to take you down a notch on your lanes. Obviously he's an incredible athlete and he's a damn good bowler, too. It's fun when he comes over, I'm sure we'll have a good time once he gets on a break.

Q. (Inaudible.)

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, I'm sure I am. Last time I bold, I bold like a 179, a 257 and a 232 or something. It took me a game to figure it out. It sometimes -- I just greased down the lanes so I made an equipment change and all of a sudden, boom.

Q. (Inaudible.)

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: No. I've come awful close. I know I've had in the 790s somewhere, I can't remember exactly. That's hard to do obviously. Not too long ago I bowled back to back 265, 279 and was going to bowl one more game and then opened up with a strike and then I had a split and I just said no, I'm done. That's the great thing about having your own lanes, you can quit whenever you want.

Q. What music did you have on your --

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I downloaded, believe it or not, the Black Keys, which is very similar to the White Stripes type music, it's kind of bluesy, funky rock, which I really like. Another blues guitar player, Gary Clark Jr., black kid, and the other day I went old school and downloaded some Ten Years After and one other one that's slipping my mind at this point.

Q. How do you relax --

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: He just gets me fired up, you know?

Q. Does your last name really mean (inaudible)?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I think it means old shoe, yeah. That's what I've been told.

Q. You guys okay?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: All right.

Q. Congratulations. Can I get a quote about you moved into second place now in the Schwab Cup, you're back in the race, maybe just talk about that?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Well, that's super exciting. I'm going to play the rest of the tournaments up to the Schwab Cup and obviously Tom Lehman's a great player. He had a great year. I don't know how many points behind him I am, but I'm pretty sure he's going to Korea. He's playing the rest of them because I know he wants to win it as well, so obviously I have to win another tournament or two to catch him.

It was an unusual week for him this week, he made an eight on the par 3, which kind of threw a wrench in his week, which that will usually happen. I don't know what he shot today but I played with him at Westchester on Sunday and he didn't miss a shot. He made no putts and shot 3-under. He could have easily won there, too. I really admire his game.

Q. If you could just tell me about your Boeing Classic experience, the course, the northwest, how has this tournament and how has the experience been for you?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Well, obviously I love the northwest, this is the third time I've won up here and the other time being in Vancouver.

You know, I've played some courses, I played Seattle Golf Club and I've played Aldarra. It's a beautiful part of the world.

I'm thankful that Boeing sponsors this tournament and planned up for another couple years or three years, whatever it is. That's awesome. Even if I hadn't won or even if I finished 20th or 30th, this is a place that I enjoy. The greens were hard last year too and I wasn't playing very good and it's a little frustrating, but it sure is fun to have to try to figure where you want to try to land a wedge shot or play away from the hole in certain situations when you have to. I thought the course played fabulous.

Other than Russ and I, we kind of separated ourselves a little bit, but with absolutely drop-dead gorgeous weather, what was top 10? 3-, 2-under? The course played firm and fast. It was great.

Q. One more question I wanted to ask is about Military Appreciation Day.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Um-hmm.

Q. You guys were battling it out, but did you get a chance to talk to Leroy at all?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I talked to him on the first hole and I talked to him quite a bit on the 18th green afterwards and he gave me this -- I gave it to my caddie to make sure he didn't lose it because these pockets are really shallow. It's a big coin and without my glasses I couldn't read what it said around the outside of it, but he said this is for the fallen warriors over here and this is for these guys and this is what it means, and I was kind of in a state of shock that he gave this thing to me and I was like oh, my God this is beautiful, and I just kind of blanked out for a minute.