



PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: MARK CALCAVECCHIA
Wednesday, August 22, 2012

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Well, it's my first offense on the Champions Tour, it's the first win so that will always be special to me out here on this Tour. You'll hear this from guys all the time, it's always great to get back to a place where you've had success and done well.

I enjoy it here. The weather's amazing this time of year. I really do like the course, it's beautiful. The last couple years the greens have been firm, big first bounce, and I assume they're probably the same way this year, so that's good for me, I hit it pretty high. Everything kind of suits me here and I am looking forward to the week.

I played well last week tee to green, so I know I'm hitting pretty good, and I didn't putt good last week. But Montreal, I made everything I looked at, so it evens out, I guess, unfortunately. You would like to putt great every week, but that's just not going to happen for most people, especially me. That's really been my problem this year. I think tee to green I've been pretty much the same.

I had a few weeks where I hit it really bad. Tampa was one of them. I had kind of a little mini skid there. Since then I've hit it fine, just haven't made many putts this last year and that's probably the slight difference between this year and last year.

MODERATOR: Keys to success here last year at this course?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: The scores weren't that low, again because the greens were really firm. There's a little bit of wind swirling around. I just obviously holed out a bunker shot on 9, made some great up-and-downs throughout the course of the week. Anytime you win or have a chance to win, your short game has got to carry it.

Then on Sunday I got off to a good start, I think I birdied three of the first five holes, and then made some pars on the back nine. Russ and I kind of separated ourselves a little bit. We both finished good. I birdied the last three and he

finished birdie-eagle. I made that putt on the last hole to get to a playoff, and I was kind of coming up the hill here to the scorer's tent going, man, it can't be that hard. I've been in 33 tournaments and I hadn't won yet, so I was wondering if I wasn't going to win this one, either. But sure enough, he didn't play the playoff hole very well and I did.

But I enjoy the course. You have to drive it well, and if you short-side yourself you've got to have a pretty good flop shot. It's tough around the greens, which I enjoy.

MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. You've had some success in the Pacific Northwest. Is it just coincidence or something about this area that you like?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Probably a little bit of both. I do enjoy the area, between here and Vancouver. Actually the one tournament we played a couple years ago in Bandon, I had a good tournament. Could be the grasses, the way the greens are. I do like tree-lined courses, and generally up here you'll find a lot of tall trees, although Sahalee isn't one of my favorite courses but it's beautiful. I like courses even like last week in Endicott. It's pretty tight, you've got to drive it well there. I like that off the tee, that look off the tee.

Drawing a blank I've got Sahalee in my head.

Q. (Inaudible)

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Shaughnessy, complete blank. That course is super tight. I think that's probably the look I like most about the courses up in this area.

Q. It took a little while to win your first. That's true for you, but other guys who seem to be hot coming off the post 50, is there a mindset that the Tour player doesn't get into their rhythm that these guys are into that maybe you guys just have to catch up on? Why do some guys who are hot struggle?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: That's a good question. I think there are a few things that are a little bit different. Most of our events are 54 holes and I think that kind of throws a few guys off a little bit at first. It takes a little getting used to that. Round 1 is super important. My last couple tournaments I shot 1-under both times. If you do that, you're really putting yourself behind the 8-ball because you just don't have enough holes to catch up. I think that's a mental thing that you've got to really be focused on right off the bat. Of course you're always trying to play as well as you can, but you've got to play well on Friday.

Q. And the guys already well into the Champions know that rhythm?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Right, right. And it's different. Even now when we play four-round tournaments, it's a little bit of an adjustment because we're used to three every week. So when we play our majors and the Schwab Cup, now you're starting on Thursday, seems like a short week. So it's a little bit of an adjustment period. I think you've got to play great. You can't just skate out here when you turn 50 with a little swagger and think you're going to win five in a row or something. It's just not going to happen, especially with three-round tournaments. Guys get hot and a lot of times shoot a lot under par and it's hard to catch somebody when they do that.

Q. (Inaudible)

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: You've got to look at Bernhard Langer, I think. He's won here. He's had, what 10 Top 10s in a row, something like that; 13 out of 15 I think I read somewhere. He's obviously in great shape. His thumb's back to normal, so he's healthy there. I really don't think he has any physical issues that I know of. He's got a lot of advantages there. He's just the ultimate grinder. You know, I was shocked when he missed that three-footer last week. I just told my caddie -- Billy Ford caddied for me last week, Brenda stayed home -- that I haven't seen him miss a putt inside seven feet really all year. He hit one like this (indicating) on 15 and missed it. I think he was shocked and I was shocked. I missed about five of these last week, by the way. He just putts great. He never misses any short ones, short game is phenomenal.

Q. (Inaudible)

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, I do. I'm hitting it well enough. Having said that, I was just at the Ping factory and I got a brand new settle of Anser irons that I'm itchy to use. I don't know if that's a good idea. I hit them on the range yesterday down in Phoenix and they were great. They were set up, he measured all my irons and put these on down to the exact loft and lie, so they should go the exact distance as the ones I've been using go. They look great and I hit them on the range. I'll use them tomorrow and decide. I've got two sets of irons with me. It shouldn't really make a difference either way. I'll probably stick with what I've been using until I play a few more rounds with them, but you never know with me. I've been know to go buy a putter and use it, or throw a driver in I've never hit. I'll tee off on Saturday somewhere, look at my driver and a guy says, How long have you been using this? I said, One hole, that was it. Maiden voyage. Not a lot of guys will throw in a driver they've never hit before, but I do all the time. But yeah, I expect to have a good week.

Q. I asked Couples the same question about putters. What do you think about the belly putter?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I don't have a problem with them. I've used them and I've got one of these long deals and I'm not bad with it, but I just don't have the nerve to pull it out really. I don't think I would really -- well, this is weird. When I was really considering using it earlier in the year, I played about five straight rounds at home starting with Ernie Els' pro-am at PGA National. I shot 65, which would have been the lead in the tournament. I'm out here with this thing in 40-miles an hour making everything, literally clueless what I was doing. Next day, made everything. I'm like, I've gotta go with it. Next day, not so good. Anyway, after five days I was clueless. I was still clueless but I was awful, I just got worst with it somehow. Usually the longer you putt with one of those, the better you get. I got worse, so that kind of erased that thought.

My point is, no matter what you putt with, it isn't easy. I belly putted it for most of 2008 and had some good stretches with it. I do think it's an advantage from inside six or seven feet, but I never made any 20- or 30-footers with it.

I also had kind of a special deal where, because my belly is so close to the ground, my belly putter is pretty short, so when I had a 30- or 40-footer, I'd just pull it out of my belly and just putt with it like my regular claw like a long regular putter. That's kind of what I did with that.

Anyway, **I don't see how they can ban them, I really don't. There's too many strikes against that. If it was that easy, everybody would be using them. You've still got to read it, you've still got to hit it with the right speed and control your nerves and all that other stuff. It can throw a wrench into a lot of guy's games, I know that. I can't even imagine. Webb Simpson said he's practicing with a short one, but Keegan Bradley, he putts amazing with that thing, the belly putter. Adam Scott has gotten better with the long one. Carl Pettersson, I've known him for a long time. When I first started playing with him, he made everything. I don't think he's putted with a short putter since he was a kid. It might definitely affect some people.**

MODERATOR: Thanks. Good luck.