



## ROUND 1

### INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: MARK CALCAVECCHIA

Friday, August 24, 2012

**MODERATOR:** Mark, good start, 7-under 65. It looks like six birdies and an eagle, and a bogey at 13 and at 18. Maybe just get us started, talk about your day a little bit and we'll go through your card and get some questions.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Well, it was a good day. You know the old saying, a birdie on the last hole or a great save or something at dinner tastes a lot better. So making a 6 on an easy par 5 is kind of nauseating, kind of wrecked an otherwise great day. Still a great score, but you hate doing that. All in all, I played great, hit a lot of great shots. The two bogeys, 13, I hit the wrong club, par 3, just short of the green and chipped it by four feet and missed it. And 18, I hit it in the face of the bunker and blasted out and hit a bad 4-iron right where you can't get up and down. But there was a lot of good things that occurred too. I wanted to get off to a good start. My first rounds lately haven't been very good. I rectified that situation at least a little bit.

**MODERATOR:** Birdies, start at No. 2. Do you remember a shot sequence there?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yeah, hit my drive just in the right rough and hit a little slice 8-iron out of there about 15 feet and made that one for birdie.

5th hole, bombed a drive, hit a little pitching wedge to about six feet below the hole and made that.

7, 3-wood off the tee, sand wedge from 97 yards to three feet, made that.

8, perfect drive, 4-iron about 20 feet behind the hole and made that for eagle.

10, hybrid in the first cut of the rough, which actually was good because I didn't spin it. I couldn't spin it as much as like. Bernhard hit a beautiful little 9-iron from the fairway and hit it just short and it sucked all the way down the hill, off the green, on the fairway. So I was in the rough and I couldn't spin it, which was

nice, and I flew it right by the hole and it just stopped. So anyway, hit a pitching wedge to about three feet and made that for birdie.

12, great drive, L-wedge 15 feet, made that one.

Next hole I hit a 7-iron, should have hit a 6-iron but it was just short of the green, it was fine, and chipped it by four feet and holed it.

Then it seemed like the last five holes took three hours, it was unbelievable. I don't know what time it is, but there were three groups on the next hole.

After all that, I hit a hybrid just on the fringe. We were two tees up there, so you're really forced -- you can't lay up from there. Good shot and putted by four feet, but I made the four-footer coming back for birdie.

15, good drive, 3-wood just off the back of the green and chipped down to a foot, tap-in birdie.

And then actually made a really good two-putt on 17 from the right edge of the green. That pin was way left down the hill. It was a hard two-putt. Got my first one up there about seven feet and made that for par, which was nice, but then I made the 6 on 18.

**MODERATOR:** Questions?

**Q. It was a pretty tight field until your 8th hole and you got the eagle. Did that give you a lift? You birdied the next four holes.**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yeah, I mean, eagles are great, they definitely help, but I was already 3-under at the time. Had that not gone in, I still would have made birdie and been 4-under, so 4-under, 5-under, it's not that big a difference in terms of -- it was only the eighth hole of the tournament. It went in, which was great.

Then, like I always do, I tried to stay aggressive and keep making birdies and shoot as low as I could, which was pretty much the object. It's only the first round. There's nothing to try to protect at this point. If it was Sunday, maybe I might have made -- gone into a little more of a protect job if I had a three- or four-shot lead. But anyway, it's the first day and I just tried to stay aggressive. There's 36 holes left. I'm playing well enough and putting good enough where I can keep making birdies, I hope, and try to eliminate mistakes is pretty much what I'm looking at for the next two rounds.

**Q. You shot 65 last year, 65 today. Do you have confidence on this course? Are you figuring it out?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yeah, you know, two years ago, which was my first year here I didn't have a very good tournament. I had a hard time reading the greens and then wasn't doing anything too spectacular through the first 27 holes last year, and I don't know what happened, I just started making a few putts and got some confidence and trusted the reads a little better, I think, and ended up winning.

I didn't make a putt yesterday in the pro-am. I didn't grind too hard on my reads, but I was slightly worried that the greens were a little bit funky again. I did a good job today of reading them right for the most part. So yeah, I feel like I know I can shoot good scores on this course now, so that's -- there's not that many great scores. It's a tricky course. It's not that easy to shoot a low score on. Having shot back-to-back 65s is a good confidence builder.

**Q. (Question regarding Fred Couples.)**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yeah, I saw him riding uphill on a cart and he looked like this. Well, that's not a good look. I kind of got over there and Olin Browne's group hadn't teed off yet and I didn't know what the problem was. Then I saw him riding back up the hill in a cart, which is too bad. It's a tough break for the tourney, losing him. He's our star. Everybody loves Fred, especially here in Seattle, so it was a tough break for the tournament. You never like to see anybody have to WD like that. Also I felt bad for Sonny Skinner. Peggy told me he was first alternate, so I assume he didn't get in. Long swing.

**Q. Are you surprised that nobody else got in at 4-under?**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yeah, I saw Faxon and Kite were 5-under, they made a few bogeys.

**Q. (Inaudible)**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** That's what I mean. There's some holes out here, 17 had to be the hardest hole of the day stroke average wise, I'm sure.

**MODERATOR:** And 3.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** 3 was? Probably a lot of bogeys on 3, tough pin there. Doesn't take much to make a dub or a trip out here. If you go for 14 and hit it left, you know, you're making dub or something. 17, the hazard over there, I'm sure the pin will be over there again on Sunday. I'm a little surprised. But on

the other hand, like I said, I think these greens are fairly difficult to read and I think it's easy to make bogeys on this course, or can be if you're not playing well.

**Q. How much does that bogey at 18 bug you? Do you forget about it or --**

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I've sort of forgotten about it right now until you just reminded me of it. I'm sure I'll bitch to my wife when I call her up on the way home for about two seconds, and then she'll tell me to shut up and that'll be fine. I'm happy with my round.

**MODERATOR:** Any more questions? Okay. Mark, thank you.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** All right.