

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BRIAN CLAAR
Thursday, June 27, 2013



Q. Long enough day?

BRIAN CLAAR: Every week's been like this. Unbelievable. What's up?

Q. Just tell us a little bit about the challenge on a day like this as far as getting the course ready and what goes into it.

BRIAN CLAAR: Well, after the three inches Tuesday night into Wednesday, the course is saturated, so it doesn't take much. We got four-tenths this morning and the place just puddled up like crazy. Jason did an unbelievable job with his staff and volunteers, I think he has close to 80 people out here. I hope I'm not exaggerating, but they got out there with squeegees and got after it and we had to play lift, clean and place because we knew a lot of fairways were still probably going to be casual water. By giving them that club length, they can go from some water to less water instead of if they want to take complete relief, they're dropping it in the rough that deep, which isn't fair. So that was a shame, but that's another thing we had to do.

We've been really lucky. Any other little shower, we were going to get knocked down again because the water is right below the surface. It's just been one of those days. We've been really lucky, it looks like we're going to get finished.

Q. How about bunkers, did you have any bunkers fill up?

BRIAN CLAAR: They all washed big time Tuesday night, Wednesday morning. The crew put them all back. We did not have any bunkers wash this morning, which was huge. I don't even think we had to pump any bunkers, just little puddles that drain by themselves. Thank goodness the bunkers actually drain pretty well here.

Q. Any tee boxes that need to be changed, pin placements, hole locations?

BRIAN CLAAR: We moved a bunch of pin placements. We had to go to some high up on knobs that probably aren't the greatest hole locations, but we had to because if we got some rain, I had probably three or four that were -- it's funny because the puddles end up in the flat spots and that's usually where we try to get hole locations. I think I had to move three, I think they moved one on the front nine, so we had to scramble around and do that. I'm sure the players understand.

Q. Is the course in danger of taking too much water? Will it become unplayable?

BRIAN CLAAR: Well, the sun's shining right now and it looks like we should be good

throughout the night. We're going to get some drying. So it would take another -- if we got another inch, I don't know what would happen. Tomorrow is 50 percent chance of thunderstorms and I think 70 or 80 percent chance we get some showers. If we get some drying tonight, it will be able to take a little but not a lot. Last year we didn't have any rain so we didn't know how this course reacted to it, and that Tuesday night, Wednesday morning was just devastating. Like I said, I think I'm going to go by a lottery ticket after today's round.

Q. Do the softened conditions of the green allow you to put those pins maybe in places where you couldn't put them?

BRIAN CLAAR: Yeah, the fact that the rain (inaudible) slower, too, because you've got to be very careful out here at 13, 13 and a half feet, and that did help. The course is playing long, balls aren't rolling, so that's probably why the scores aren't -- there's a lot of decent scores but not a lot of really low scores because it's playing long and the balls are hitting and sucking back because the greens are so wet. It's hard to keep them up on the shelves where these hole locations are and that's all because --

Q. How are the greens running?

BRIAN CLAAR: I'm guessing they're probably about 12 feet. They probably lost a foot with this rain, maybe a little more.

Q. Where does this rainfall amount rank in some of the ones you've had?

BRIAN CLAAR: Three and a half inches is right up there with the top. Florida courses can handle it because it's all sand-based golf courses. This is different soil up here. Three and a half inches is an awful lot of rain.

Q. How is it for the galleries to get around? It was tough for me to get around.

BRIAN CLAAR: Well, I don't want to say anything to keep anybody from coming out, but it's a little mucky out there, to be honest. Usually where the gallery ropes are, the rough and everything runs off pretty good. It's not bad.

Q. Is there a particular place on the golf course that maybe took the worst beating because of the rain than other quadrants or sections?

BRIAN CLAAR: No, I don't think so. It's funny, some of the most pitched fairways stay wet because it drains from the (inaudible) like on the left of 13, it keeps coming down the hill all day long. So you think those would be the driest because it runs off, but it keeps running from up in the rough. 14 fairway is probably the worst, it stays very wet, 14, 15. Other than that, no. The staff, like I said, did an unbelievable job this week getting the course playable.

Q. (Inaudible)

BRIAN CLAAR: It was the best conditioned course, I can't imagine a better conditioned course, there's nothing to adjust, it's perfect. A lot of players are saying that. It's a shame. The fact that we didn't have carts in the pro-am was huge, we didn't wreck the place up.

Q. (Inaudible)

BRIAN CLAAR: ... walk outside the ropes with the Golf Channel and the rules official and the maintenance crew having to get around, but inside the ropes it's still very nice.

Q. So you come into this with a plan of how you want to set it up each day and where you would like to (inaudible) but now it becomes an everyday thing?

BRIAN CLAAR: Yeah. Tomorrow, you know, if it's going to rain again, we're going to have to try to stay away from the flatter spots because that's where the rain's going to puddle, So we'll do the best we can.

Q. How big are these greens? They're pretty big greens. Does that help you with the pin positions?

BRIAN CLAAR: It does. The 3rd green is very hard to find hole locations. We'll probably have three out of the four pretty much in the same two-yard area. Other than that, the greens are big enough, like you said, where there are multiple hole locations.