

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: DUFFY WALDORF
Thursday, June 27, 2013

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Duffy, 34, 32, 4-under 66 to open the 2013 Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, nice playing. Just sort of talk about your day. I know it was very wet out there.

DUFFY WALDORF: Yeah, I was wondering if we were going to get to play. I guess they decided it had rained enough and it was time to go. My round started, I got off to a good start. It was kind of drizzly. I started on the back side, birdied No. 11 and No. 12 and No. 13, which is really a great way to get the round going. After that I kind of played a little dodgy, I was struggling with my tee shots, I was in the rough a lot. Then I actually played pretty well on the second nine. I picked up a birdie on No. 1, which was my 10th hole. But then I had a little trouble putting the rest of the way. I three-putted No. 2 and three-putted No. 5, which lost a couple shots there. And then just played pretty steady the rest of the way. I finished with a birdie on No. 9, which was a nice way to finish. It was kind of a quick start, real not much happened in the middle, and then finished with a birdie to get to 66.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Can you just give us details of birdies?

DUFFY WALDORF: Sure. No. 11, I hit 8-iron in there 138 yards and I had about an 18-footer for birdie, I made that.

Next hole, No. 12, I had a sand wedge in from 88, hit a good shot there about six feet past the hole and made it for birdie.

Then on No. 13 I hit 8-iron out of the rough 160 to about 20 feet and made that for birdie.

And then all the way around to No. 1, I was in the rough but hit a pitching wedge, a good shot five feet past the hole and made that for birdie from about 113 anyway for yardage.

Then my last birdie was on No. 9, I was in the rough, hit a 7-iron from 150, hit it in there about four feet, made that for birdie.

Q. A couple things, Duffy. One, obviously the rough didn't seem to bother you too much when you got in it, it sounds like three birdies from the rough. Also, when it's wet like this, do you go out and you started with three quick birdies after the par, is your mindset maybe to attack? Do you kind of wait and see what it is? Does it change because it's damp out?

DUFFY WALDORF: I think the dampness definitely changes how you play the course because the ball's really sticking. When it hits the green, it stops, and if you

come in with a lot of spin, there's quite a few short holes out here and controlling the spin can be very difficult. I was fortunate that I was in the fairway it seemed like a lot on the long holes and then in the rough on the shorter holes, which didn't really hurt me. It makes a big difference if you're in the rough with a 9-iron or pitching wedge or 8-iron, that's where I was. The holes that are longer holes I was in the fairway and that really helped my round.

As far as how I played, I hadn't even played the back side yet, I only played nine holes here in the pro-am on Wednesday, so I felt like I was playing very conservative all day. A few times I felt like playing conservative was going to get me in trouble, so if I had short irons in, I felt I needed to play to the pin because the ball was holding. Normally I think here you play some bounce and play the slopes, but today I think you needed to really throw it right at the pin. So a few times when I had short irons I was very aggressive, and just on the longer shots, stick it more in the middle of the green and just two-putting a lot.

Q. You've had a lot of really good starts in the last, what, four or five events. What do you attribute that to? That's something you're obviously trying to do, but is there something that's changed that's enabled you to do that?

DUFFY WALDORF: Well, I'm obviously playing better. Earlier in the year I was definitely struggling at the start. I think I've just been a little more comfortable. Every course for me is kind of a new course, almost every one. There's been two so far I've played before. Early in the year I was in Boca, I remember being in Boca, Naples, and I just wasn't feeling comfortable with the way the holes were and all that. I just kind of talked myself into being comfortable even though I haven't played the hole before. In other words, I'm not really sure where I want to hit it but just be real sure of the shot I'm going to hit and just be comfortable. Even like this course, I hadn't even really played a practice round and went out my first nine holes, hadn't played them and just kept hitting shots from a comfortable place instead of being worried about not knowing it. The uncertainty of where the trouble is and all that, I haven't been dealing with that, so I've just been -- and I've been putting better, getting those birdies in early and that takes a lot of pressure off. I've been getting off to a good start and that's been the difference. I start my round, I get under par, it's just a lot easier to play from under par for me than playing from 2-over par.

Q. How much of that good start is the product of this notion out here that it's not a marathon, it's kind of a sprint, you'd better get out quick, you'd better go low and you'd better keep going low. There's not much margin of error out here, that's what all the guys say.

DUFFY WALDORF: Well, the thing is when you play on the regular Tour, on the PGA TOUR, you look at the score that wins the tournament. What was the tournament last week? Hartford I think. What was the winning score, 12-under par? So if you have 12-under par for four rounds, you feel if I shoot 1-, 2-, 3-under par, I'm

not on too bad a pace. Out here we play some courses that aren't quite as difficult, and especially the conditions we've had when you get this rain, you can really be -- you can be aggressive, the greens aren't too fast, you can throw the ball at the pin.

So yeah, some of the courses we've been playing a lot of the year you kind of have to be a little aggressive because it might take -- a three-round tournament, it might take 12-, 15-under par to win. So when you've got that number in your head, especially a three-round -- Fox Chapel, I don't know. My first year here, seems like a pretty hard course, we'll have to see how the conditions are. There's only a couple par 5s and I don't really know what it's going to take to win out here. Here you've just got to play the course each day and hope you get as much out of your round as you can.

Q. Duffy, excuse me, I might have missed this somewhere along the way but I don't recognize the hat and the shirt.

DUFFY WALDORF: Oh, well, you don't recognize it?

Q. No.

DUFFY WALDORF: Oh, well, I have a nice Nike shirt, it's a very nice shirt, I bought it online.

Q. No, I mean the change.

DUFFY WALDORF: Well, I put the flowered shirt and the flowered hat where they belong, in the trash bin, and now I'm wearing these. I want to look good, thought I'd wear solid colors for a while.

Q. Just wanted to ask, I don't know if you were watching the leaderboard but what you thought when you saw Huston go birdie, birdie, eagle on 5, 6, 7?

DUFFY WALDORF: Well, I'm glad I wasn't watching a leaderboard. Was there a leaderboard out there? I looked at one like maybe on the first couple holes, but after that, like I don't even know where the holes go so I'm having a hard enough time figuring out the holes let alone where the leaderboards are. I didn't know that he had done that, but that's good playing. I thought when I got to 3-under par, I was thinking you know what, just keep going and see how low you can go. Not much happened after that. I always feel like if you're playing well, you need to get the most out of your round whatever it is, 3- or 4-under or hopefully it's 8-under. I actually didn't see what happened on the leaderboard. There's obviously going to be a lot of great guys, four rounds, got to keep plugging away like Fred Funk, ladies and gentlemen.