

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BOBBY CLAMPETT
Friday, August 23, 2013

DAVE SENKO: 5-under 67 today, maybe just get us started, talk about your day, then we'll get your birdies.

BOBBY CLAMPETT: Well, it really was a good day. I got some good breaks, especially early in the round and kept me from making any bogeys. Then I started hitting the ball a little better as the round progressed. It was a lot of fun out there all day long. I had a great group with Brian and Joey.

DAVE SENKO: Birdies, started on the back.

BOBBY CLAMPETT: Yeah, I parred my first five holes and I had some chances there and nothing was dropping. I finally made a 15-footer on 15 for birdie and made a good par save at 17. 18, I just played a nice pitch shot up for gimme and made birdie there.

DAVE SENKO: How close?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: A foot. Gimme for you, maybe not gimme for me. No. 1, just off the green in two and hit a nice pitch about six feet and made that for birdie. 4, I drove it in the right bunker, caught a real nice lie, had a good number, 120 yards and hit a pitching wedge about six feet and made it for birdie. 7, I hit a real nice 9-iron about three feet. 8, I hit a nice wedge in there three feet and missed it. Then 9, I had a 10-footer and misread it.

Q. Do you remember the last time you had a bogey-free round?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: I don't remember, that's a good question. It seems to me I had one not too long ago, maybe in Minnesota, I think I had one in Minnesota.

Q. You haven't played great here the first --

BOBBY CLAMPETT: You can be honest with me, no. It's been a challenging start of the year. I wasn't particularly playing poorly, just nothing was going right and missed a lot of putts. I had four tournaments out here, I got the first alternate and didn't get in, so it was a tough start to the year this year, no question about it.

Q. You said you had some good breaks today. What was the biggest break?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: All my lies in the rough were pretty good. I missed four fairways off the tee and two of them were just the short rough, one was a fairway bunker, and the one on 18, I tried to carry the bunker on 18 and I didn't quite do it.

But all the lies were good, which isn't always the case around here for sure. I think that was primarily it. I was reading putts really well early in the round, my caddie was, too. It was one of those days where we were doing a good job on the greens. The only putt that we misread all day was the last one on nine.

Q. How hard is it to do TV and play?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: I don't do much TV anymore to be honest with you, I only do two a year, Masters and PGA. This is my primary focus, this and my teaching business.

Q. With the cooler weather today, what kind of factor is that?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: It really wasn't. Ball wasn't going quite as far, but I think it kept a lot of moisture in the fairways and the greens so the greens were a little bit more receptive. There's always some parts to some of the greens that are like this (knocking on table) and you've got to kind of know where they are. I think you have to play this golf course a little bit -- because of that, you have to play it a little bit conservatively into the greens in your approach shots, make sure you hit a high percentage of greens. Nicklaus courses are always that way, you don't score his courses missing greens.

Q. What is it that's prevented you from being consistent?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: That's a great question. I would say relearning how to compete. It's been 15, 16, 17 years that I was away from the game and that's a long time. I've been relearning how to compete with all the new technologies that are available and the ball flies a little differently than it used to, the drivers and the 3-woods are quite different, playing in wind, shaping shots. From a competitive standpoint, the game is different than it was 20 years ago.

Q. Did you have a lot of apprehension coming back because you wondered if you could do it or the game has passed you by?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: Sure, absolutely, when you leave the game for that long, but then again I embraced that as a challenge and I didn't want to look back on my life and say, well, I wonder what I could have done on the Champions Tour. So I decided to go for it and see what happens. I'm enjoying it, I'm enjoying the whole process of it. Every day I'm learning and I wish I were a lot younger because I feel like I'm getting better, I feel like I continue to learn. I find parts of my game improving overall and I really enjoy the whole process of just being out here with the guys again and playing.

Q. Do you feel confident you can go out on the weekend and shoot similar rounds?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: Yeah, yeah, I feel like my game's coming around and things are starting to click. It's pretty hard to win out here, no doubt about it. But you see what kind of scores Bart's shooting, I haven't shot any scores like that. For me, 5-under's pretty good around here and what did he shoot, 7-under today? Is he even done?

DAVE SENKO: He's still playing.

BOBBY CLAMPETT: He shot 10-under in the second round last week which is -- I shot 1-over that day. Just remarkable the quality of play out here.

Q. The mental aspect of the game, is it as hard or harder coming back to these guys that are coming right into the Champions Tour from the PGA TOUR, winning, that kind of thing, they had the flow. Did you wonder mentally whether you belong, whether you could win?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: Yeah, there's always going to be some hurdles there, especially when you're away from the game as long as I've been, there's always that question mark. I don't have to prove anything to anybody except myself. I just want to go out and see what I can do, what I can accomplish, and for no other purpose really than for love of the game and personal challenge.

Q. You said you're learning a lot. You've done everything except mowed the lawn. What are you learning?

BOBBY CLAMPETT: What am I learning? Honestly, I'm learning something new every day, it's so deep. From playing off different grasses to reading lies to hitting pitch shots off of a tight lie, a fluffy lie, in the short rough, angle of attacks, learning the bounce of a wedge, how much you open it, whether it's the right play to play a flop shot or should you bump it, these kinds of things. You're hitting into the wind, how much is that wind really going to affect it and what's the spin rate going to be on the difference of a particular shot, and trying to shape shots a little bit because I've always been a shaper but the ball doesn't react like it used to, especially into the wind. You try to hit a 3-wood or something like that off the fairway into the wind and the spin rates today are so variable as opposed to in the old days, the ball just kind of spun anyway so we just trapped it and hit it. Now the clubs are so different, where you hit the ball on the clubface is much more meaningful. Then looking for consistencies, ways to get more consistent. That's really been my whole issue is trying to bring my realm of error and consistency closer with all the parts of my game, whether it be putting or ball striking, around the greens, and consistently learning how to do that and ways to do that.