

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: DOUG GARWOOD
Thursday, June 26, 2014

DAVE SENKO: 6-under 64 and continued good play for you in the last month or so. Maybe just talk about your day and then we'll get some questions.

DOUG GARWOOD: Well, I have been playing good and so I tried to lower my expectations coming in here. Figured I would just kind of take it slow and easy and start off slow, but then made some birdies and all of a sudden I'm 6-under par.

DAVE SENKO: Started off 2-under on the front, birdies at 2 and 5. Maybe just take us through those two starting at No. 2.

DOUG GARWOOD: Yeah, 2's a 485 par 5, so it's a little on the shorter side and I had a 4-iron in, hit it to about 12 feet and just missed the eagle putt, made a birdie.

And then 5 is a layup off the tee with a 2-iron and then I hit a wedge in there about 15 feet and rolled that in.

And then should have had birdie on 7, flew my driver on the middle of the green and three-jacked it, but three-putt pars are always nice.

DAVE SENKO: And then three in a row, 12, 13 and 14.

DOUG GARWOOD: Let's see. 12, we were getting a lot of spin because conditions were pretty soft out there and I landed my little lob wedge about 40 feet past the hole and sucked it back about 50 feet to the right and rolled in about a 14-footer, right-to-left putt for birdie.

13, I hit a big drive and an 8-iron to the back pin, which is like 38 on and the green's 44 deep, it's way back there. I was still 15 feet short, a little right-to-left and rolled that one in, so that was two in a row.

DAVE SENKO: How far was your putt?

DOUG GARWOOD: About 15 feet.

And then the next hole, 14, got a little bit lucky. I thought I hit a good drive but it kind of made a right turn in the air, and there's a treeline down the right side and you're just dead if you're in those trees. I guess I hit the tree and kicked farther right. Hit a 9-iron up over the trees, rolled in about a 35-footer for birdie. So went from bogey to birdie in a hot second.

DAVE SENKO: And then 16?

DOUG GARWOOD: 16, I was in the first cut on the left side. I was a little perturbed because I just missed a six-footer on 15, the one putt I should have made in the last four holes. I hit an 8-iron in, made a nice swing, hit it about two feet and managed to roll that one in.

DAVE SENKO: Any chances at 17 and 18 at all? Did you get it close?

DOUG GARWOOD: 17, I hit a nice 3-iron about 40 feet and stopped about three inches short of the jar. And 18, I hit a huge drive and I was so impressed with my drive I tried to hit 2-iron on the green and flared it out right and didn't get it up and down.

Q. Nice playing.

DOUG GARWOOD: Thank you.

Q. This is a really good year you're having, a really good stretch of play. Is there a defining element to it, something you've done differently or getting ready to do?

DOUG GARWOOD: I think the key for me is my driving has improved dramatically from say five, 10 years ago. I used to aim straight down the middle and miss it left or right. I got a driver that I can't really miss left and so I hit three to four more fairways a round and that makes a big difference. So that's part of it, the driver, plus making every putt I look at. We all think we should make every putt.

Q. You seem to have gotten comfortable out here fast. You've contended, you've been in the hunt. Is that surprising to you that you've adjusted so quickly?

DOUG GARWOOD: Not really. You know, when I played the Nationwide Tour my first year out, I lost one tournament in a playoff and I was Top 50 on the money list. And then I had shoulder surgery the next year and I had a lot of injuries, so I felt like my game was up there. In college I tied for first in the NCAAs, two-time All American, so my game was at a national level. PGA TOUR, I never played in a PGA event.

The most difficult part for me is just seeing the guys that I watched on TV for all those years. You know, seeing them in the locker room, someone says, Hi, Doug. Oh, hi, Fred. And I've never met him but I know who he is. So that part's probably more difficult. Once it's teeing it up and playing the golf, then it's just golf.

Q. Sometimes that can be intimidating I guess is what I'm asking, when you see the guys in the locker room, but it doesn't seem to have bothered you. You might have enjoyed it but you seem very comfortable with it.

DOUG GARWOOD: Trying to. You know, look good on the outside, I'm a little nervous on the inside.

Q. Doug, you talked about how well you're playing so you came in and lowered your expectations. Wouldn't it seem to be if you were -- it would be natural if you were playing pretty well to sort of raise your expectations?

DOUG GARWOOD: I've always believed that the lower the expectation, the easier it is to meet it. So I don't want to put any extra pressure on myself. There's enough pressure just being out here with all the hoopla. So, you know, I just go out and try to shoot my best really because you can't really think -- I can't think about winning the tournament or, you know, trying to shoot 64. It just kind of happens. One shot at a time is my motto.

Q. Is there any time during a round or during a tournament when you do start thinking about winning because certainly you have been in position to win a few times. So does that change at all your mindset when you get close at the end thinking, and if so, how does that change the dynamic?

DOUG GARWOOD: Well, in Iowa I had a four-shot lead after four the last day, so I was thinking about winning then. I was thinking I would win by 10, but that didn't happen. You know, last couple holes really is the only time I think that I really think about winning because they always say you've got to get in contention for the back nine, like at Augusta kind of thing. So winning is something that happens at the very end. I think every guy out here will say they're just trying to play each hole to the best of their ability, and then once they get to the end, then it becomes a little bit more like match play and you're trying to win and that kind of stuff.

I'm sorry, what was the question? (Laughter.)

DAVE SENKO: Thanks, Doug.

DOUG GARWOOD: Thank you. I'll be here all week.