

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: MARK CALCAVECCHIA
Sunday, June 6, 2015



MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I know bacon's popular here so it's just crazy how this worked out with the pants and, you know, my buddy Brooks, Brooks Reynolds, he was just excited that I would wear them one day at any time. He originally wanted me to wear them Saturday, and I said, well, what if I shoot 75, and normally we're off both tees. I said, What if I'm dead last or, you know, off the 10th tee? You know, I'm not going to get any TV time, nobody's going to be watching me. He said, Okay, you better wear them the first day, playing with Michael Allen and I can't remember who the other one was. But anyway, he was just thrilled I wore them one day, and to play well that day, to have the end result be a win wearing the stuff is stunning really.

Q How will it gratify you to win after what you went through in the season?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: It came out of nowhere. I didn't see it coming quite honestly. You know, I wasn't playing very well a few weeks ago and actually Steve Lowery and I tied for third in The Legends, which is fun but, you know, individually I haven't -- I don't think I've had a top ten since maybe here last year. That's not very good for me, and to be able to do this is just kind of out of nowhere.

Q What went well this week?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: You have to drive it well here. And even though sometimes they may say statistically you only hit six fairways, a lot of times you'll hit it right down the middle and it will roll into the first cut. It's hard to hit a lot of fairways. Today I think I hit -- I had to hit 10 fairways today. Softer -- the rain helped, but the wind was a little bit tricky. There were some good rounds but this course, it's a lot of fun to play, it's tricky. You can make some birdies, but you can get on the bogey train too.

Q You won with the putter you bought in town, I understand?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I did. I bought it last -- I guess, well, Tuesday or Wednesday a couple weeks ago right when we first got here. The second day we were here we went to Dick's, needed to get some of those little energy chews and sport drinks and things for her for running. Of course I just went straight right over to look at the putters because I figured she'd be shopping, buying some other stuff while she was at it, some clothes or something. But anyway it was the second putter I looked at. The first one was one I already had and this one's a heavier one. I put it down, as soon as I looked at it, I went, Wow. Ping is fantastic about sending me putters and I've got a hundred of them, but sometimes you just look at one and it just caught my eye. I made 12 putts in a row with it there in the little putting green in Dick's, and the old guy in there was looking at putters and said you haven't missed one yet. So I was like, good point, maybe that's a sign, you know, so I bought it.

Q Where did you get the pants?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: These are courtesy of Brooks Reynolds who is co-founder of the Blue Ribbon Bacon Festival. He was just thrilled I'd wear them one day to get a little publicity out of it. And to play well the first day and get on TV and get pictures in the papers and all that stuff, it's been a huge bit of publicity for them. And now to win wearing these things is fantastic.

Q Was there a conscious decision to go back to them today because you had some success Friday?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, I wore them Friday and I wore the belt yesterday and, you know, when I birdie five of the last eight yesterday I really wasn't thinking about it when I was playing, but all the sudden I grabbed the lead and then I'm like, well, I've got to wear them. I have to. I'll give them one more shot.

Q Sixty-six tournaments without a win, to snap out of it, sure feels good to get back into the winner's circle?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, it's been -- like I said, it's kind of out of nowhere. I'm in a little state of shock right now. With this hand thing, I couldn't bend my fingers for three months. Then I tried to grip a club, I couldn't even come close. I couldn't hit a chip. So, you know, every day it just never improved. When something like that is going on, you think am I done? Am I ever going to be able to grip a club again? It still bothers me. I wake up and these fingers hurt, it hurts to bend them. But once I get out there and start playing and after I hit about five or ten balls on the range, I kind of get over the pain and kind of forget about it.

Q You can hold a trophy can't you?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yep.

Q Hey, Mark, quick birdie on 10, how far was it?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Hit a great drive, hit a wedge about 15 feet.

Q No. 14, the bogey?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Hit a 5-iron and thought I hit it pretty good but it cut a little heavy, just short of the green, caught a bad lie and it was straight up, up the hill, and left my chip short, then left my eight footer short right in the middle.

Q And 15?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Two great shots there. I hardly ever hit that fairway and I hit it right down the middle, hit a 5-wood that I just roasted and it landed -- from 242 landed four feet left of the hole, went just over the green, again in some sticky grass and chipped it up there about two feet.

Q Have a bacon wrapped filet tonight to celebrate?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I don't know.

Q Just good to have something to celebrate?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, that sounds good. It does, it feels good.

Q This is your fifth time here at the tournament, your fifth top ten, fourth top five. How do you feel coming back here every year?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, well, I love it. It's definitely our favorite place, and next year I'd love it in the schedule if there's a week off before we get here so we can do exactly what we did this time. It's been a great two weeks and we just love being here, so hopefully the schedule will work out the same.

Q Did you come right here from French Lick?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: We did. We've been here two full weeks. Well, we went to the Indianapolis 500. We missed the cut and had some friends that had a few extra tickets and drove up to Indy, parked in his driveway, and the boss, and ran the generator, then just went to the race, got up early Monday morning and drove here and been here ever since.

Q You've been in Des Moines ever since?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, since whatever day that was, day after the Indy 500, we've been here for two weeks, 13 days.

Q Congratulations.

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Thank you.