

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: JOHN MERRICK
Saturday, July 18, 2015



Q Just talk about the round. You didn't seem to have any bad holes?

JOHN MERRICK: Yeah, played well today. And just a short putt for par on No. 3, then after that putt really well today. It has been a big difference in the last two days, just made some putts, just really turned it around for Thursday which I'm happy about.

Q Is there a moment in the last two days where you kind of felt the turn around?

JOHN MERRICK: Yeah, I've been tinkering with my putting, different grips and whatnot. I actually switched to a claw grip. Byron Nelson, actually putt great and then ever since then haven't putt so well. So I just went back a normal grip, just kind messed around with a few different techniques and, yeah, just kind of got comfortable and made some putts the last few days.

Q Did you putt with the wedge on Thursday?

JOHN MERRICK: Yeah, I had no choice. I mean, out of anger I hit my bag and bent my putter, so yeah, at that point I was seven over, I think six or seven over par for the tournament, you know, which was not good. And, yeah, at that point I had to use my wedge, so it was just kind one of those things. Actually putting with a wedge is a great drill. It's obviously not what you want to do, but, yeah, I had no choice.

Q When did you make the grip change?

JOHN MERRICK: Well, I obviously did it with my wedge, went back to a regular, and then I did it starting the second round as well. I didn't do claw grip.

Q So you used the wedge how long?

JOHN MERRICK: Yeah, that was on the second hole, so after 11 -- 11 holes, I had to do the last seven holes with a wedge in the second round -- no, the first round.

Q Your first nine, that was the brutal stretch for you?

JOHN MERRICK: Yeah, I mean, again, I missed a par putt with my wedge on the third hole which was my 10th, 11th hole the first round, and I was seven over par for the tournament. Seven over I think after, yeah, 12 holes. So I mean I was just, you know, wasn't good.

Q Looking back, was that maybe a change --

JOHN MERRICK: Yeah, golf is so weird, you never can put your finger on when you're going to make birdies and when you're going to make bogeys. To be honest with you, my outlook and my mindset wasn't too great after that and just want to completed the round and obviously going into

Friday, yeah, just kind of wanted to just play and, you know, obviously get some practice in before next week, and just kind of caught fire. The game is strange, you know. If I knew what I did, I'd do it every time. So sometimes you just make a couple 15-footers in a row and away you're gone.

Q You don't know where you're going to stand tomorrow, but does your mindset change again?

JOHN MERRICK: Yeah, there's going to be some good scores today. There's no wind, there's some gettable flags. Yeah, there's a ton of guys at 7-, 8-under so there's going to be some good rounds so I'll be a ways back. I'm going to have to stay aggressive tomorrow, but it's nice to play well today obviously.