

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW:   ANDREW LOUPE**  
**May 5, 2016                 STEVE WHEATCROFT**



**Q. The guys who are fans who followed these two guys, they got their money's worth today. How about 12 birdies and two eagles. You got the two eagles, Steve. This is the third time in your career on the PGA Tour that you had two eagles in a round, the second time coming here as well. What do you like about this golf course so much?**

**STEVE WHEATCROFT:** Well, it's fun to play. I've always loved this place. They've lengthened it out a little bit now where it's a lot harder to make those eagles and birdies. But I've always loved this place from the day I got here. Love the fairways, the greens, the way the tee shots set up. I've always liked Quail Hollow.

**Q. Andrew, you did it the old fashioned way, seven birdies today and no bogeys, 146 plus-feet of putts you made today. Was that the biggest aspect of your game?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** I would have to say so. Drove it in play for the most part as well. Tough golf course, but it's in great shape and I mean I was really just trying to keep up with Wheaty all day. He was pushing me all day. We had a lot of fun out there. I thought Johnson played some really good golf as well. A couple bad breaks but we were kind of in a groove out there. Hopefully we can just keep that going tomorrow.

**Q. Yeah, I want to feed off that a little bit, too, because we hear guys talk about drafting off each other when they're playing well. For you, what does that mean when you see Wheaty playing as well as he was?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** Starts with, you know, both these guys are good guys. I thought it was a good pairing for me. And I guess it kind of keeps you a little more comfortable knowing that someone else is out there doing it and you've just got to keep your head down and keep going. I think it's pretty much as simple as that.

**Q. How about you, Steve?**

**STEVE WHEATCROFT:** Same thing. I can't hit it within 40 yards of him but there's ways to make birdies out here and luckily I found ways to do it today. But it's always fun when we're all in a groove. Like he said, Johnson played way better than even par today so we were all just kept firing, kept making birdies, kept throwing in putts.

**Q. Some momentum in your group as well. How much fun was it out there for you, Andrew?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** We had a blast. We had a good pairing to start. Wheaty's a great guy, so is Johnson. Both funny dudes just keeping it light out there. Also nice to have the entire group have a lot of momentum. Like Johnson ended up with even par but he played far

better than that. Just kind of pushed each other out there.

**Q. Blemish-free, bogey-free scorecard 65. One of the undoubted highlights, talk about the difficulty of the Green Mile, the closing stretch here, 1 under for you and this is the highlight at 17.**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** Right, just the perfect yardage for a 6-iron really. A little bit easier with the wind there downwind but still is a really tough shot and I was just able to put it in a nice spot where I had an uphill putt and rolled it in.

**Q. Coming in this week, Andrew, you missed four of your last five cuts. What have you found this week so far?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** A lot of it's mental really. I think I just had to focus for the most part, focusing. I know it's cliché but be in the exact moment in the present, I thought I did a lot better job doing it today.

**Q. Mindset for the next three days?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** Same mindset.

**Q. 7 under par, the flat stick, especially on that front nine, you were pouring in everything.**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** I was. It was nice to see a couple go in early. It's been a while since I made some putts early on in the round but the greens are absolutely perfect. They're beautiful bermudagrass, and I guess the line just kind of stood up for me today and I was able to roll a few in.

**Q. I thought you drove the ball extremely well. I looked at your numbers, I think you're 12th on the Tour in driving distance but on this golf course that really helps you and you kept it in the fairway.**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** Right. I thought I drove it in play on every hole, maybe not every single fairway but no wayward tee shots. Working two slots with the driver now, one's kind of a high draw off a high tee and the other's a low fade off a low tee. Into the wind or out of the left or anything like that I just tee it real low and just try to hammer down on it and keep the ball in play.

**Q. Steve said you guys were kind of feeding off each other. It's nice when another guy playing with you is lighting it up, too?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** It was. All three of us got off to pretty solid starts, but them being nice guys that kind of helps. We were joking around a little bit out there, but Steve was tough today, Wheaty played great. I really just felt like I was trying to keep up the whole time. I

figured if we can just keep that momentum rolling into tomorrow.

**Q. Your first round bogey-free 7-under 65, tell me how it was out there.**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** It was good. The course is in phenomenal shape. The whole group kind of had it rolling so I was really just trying to keep up with Wheaty the whole time. They're easy guys to play with, felt we had a pretty good time for the most part. Just trying to keep rolling into tomorrow morning.

**Q. How was the course? Got a lot of rain earlier in the week, it was kind of raining on and off today. How did the weather affect you guys?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** A little chilly out there but I don't mind that. The course is playing long. They moved a couple tees up but it's playing pretty long for the most part, which might play into my hands a little bit. Maybe one or two mud balls but really it's playing fair. It's just a really good, tough golf course that's in good condition.

**Q. Talk about your experience this week at the Wells Fargo Championship. It's such a huge event with a lot going on. How's that been for you in Charlotte?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** It's a great atmosphere out here, it really is, even yesterday there was tons of fans out here on a Wednesday, that's what you want. You want to play in front of people. I just love the town as well. It's a fun city and I always look forward to coming here.

**Q. Andrew, no bogeys, seven birdies, just a standard walk around Quail Hollow today?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** It was fun. I had a great group out there. Johnson's a great guy, so is Wheaty. Kind of felt like I was trying to keep up the whole time with Steve. We both kind of had it rolling early. It was good to see a couple putts go in early on in the round. Thought I drove it in play for the most part. Just solid golf for the most part, just looking to keep that momentum going into tomorrow morning.

**Q. Without a bogey on your card, would you say that's mistake-free or did you maybe get away with some things?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** I don't think you're ever going to be mistake-free. I had a couple iron shots that I wish I could have back but I can't complain about that. I haven't been bogey-free that while, I can't remember the last time I haven't made a bogey in a round. You know, a lot of momentum coming from that but it's so early in the golf tournament, I just have to keep my head down and keep playing.

**Q. Guys feeding off each other, you and Steve with the way he was going. He was a little more exciting in his round with eagles and bogeys and that sort of thing.**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** He played so good. I guess he had a couple bogeys but two eagles. I mean, that's not very often that that happens. He drove it beautifully and he putted it beautifully, and when you have those two golf clubs working you can really do some damage.

**Q. Do you find yourself feeding off that?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** Absolutely. I mean, just the energy within the group was good. You don't always have that. Tomorrow's a new day and so's the next and so's the next. You really just have to do your absolute best to stay in the absolute present and focus on what you're doing at that time.

**Q. Was there one part of your game that really was clicking today?**

**ANDREW LOUPE:** I mean, I rolled several putts in, especially on the front. But the driver was big for me because, you know, a lot of those putts were for birdie because of that club and I just kept driving it in play. I didn't hit every fairway but if I missed fairways they weren't wayward, they were right there where I had a shot at the green for the most part.