

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: KIRK TRIPLETT**  
**June 26, 2016**



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**KIRK TRIPLETT:** -- back nine of the last round, so I think maybe that made it more comfortable, I guess that's a long story to say I was a little more comfortable than I sometimes am possibly.

**MODERATOR:** Birdies, start at No. 2?

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** I hit a utility or a hybrid on the green about 30 feet, 2-putted.

**MODERATOR:** Par 3?

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** 8-iron, 10 feet. This is the Champions Tour, sometimes you can't remember them.

**MODERATOR:** No. 7?

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Hit a 5-iron to about 10 feet.

**MODERATOR:** Bogey at 10?

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** 3-putted from probably 40 feet or so.

**MODERATOR:** No. 11, par 5?

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Hit a hybrid just off the the green and chipped it to a foot.

**MODERATOR:** And then four in a row starting at 13?

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** 13, I just hit a 40-yard sand wedge shot in there to a foot. Hit a pitching wedge on 14 to 10 feet. Pitching wedge on 15 to bogey, six feet.

**MODERATOR:** Okay, and then 16?

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Hit a 5-iron just off the edge of the green and chipped to it a foot.

**MODERATOR:** Okay.

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** And then 17 I made a nice 2-putt par, made like an eight footer comeback (inaudible) really gave me the ability to play 18 a little more conservatively. Although still Mike was only -- it was a very bogey thing, it was only a two shot lead playing 18. So I didn't -- hit a nice shot, it just didn't get up the tier and had a really good roll on it, and I got about a 30, 40-footer straight up to hill for a 2- to win.

**Q. How special was it have your son this week?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, it's always special when you have your family. Sometimes you try too hard, but we were just -- he's a competitive golfer as well. He plays on the college team at Northwestern and just for him to be inside the ropes and see what's going on, not just watch me, he watches me play all the time so, but he gets to watch some of these great players, Billy Andrade, Mike Goodes, Tommy Armour, III, the last few days and it's just great experience for him to see how we handle things from that standpoint. But, yeah, he hasn't caddied very often. It's been a couple years, caddied for me at Royal Porthcawl at the British Senior Open and then he has a twin brother who caddied for me last year at Minneapolis, but we don't do the father son caddie like some guys. They're too busy. They can't be bothered to come out here. It was a lot of fun, we'll remember it for a long time.

**MODERATOR:** Questions, please raise your hand. We've got two mics here so we can get it recorded.

**Q. How was it that you found out what happened to Bryant where you went from deficit to the lead?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, we never really did. That was a little bit of a cushion between our group and their group, so I -- when I made the birdie on 14 I'm thinking, you know, 16 is a birdie hole, 17 and 18 are hard. I mean, another birdie or two this might be -- may come finish it out, right, because you're playing birdie holes and when you're behind you expect the guys that are ahead of you to birdie the birdie holes also. And that wasn't really happening. And then obviously something happened because we got to 16 green and I'm on the edge of the green and there's a scoreboard straight through there and I was like, my name is on the top there, I thought I was pushing it, you know. And his name wasn't the next one, right, we weren't tied. So I looked down and I saw that he had made, I don't know if he made double, triple, he went from 17 to 14, yeah. So I don't know what happened. And then all the sudden I went from in two holes 15 to 17 and he went from 17 to 14, so pretty quick turnaround. It happens that way sometimes, but most the time it's a little more gradual.

**Q. You talked about it during the trophy presentation. How do you grade this as an event from start to finish?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** It's wonderful, definitely in our top tier of events. You've got all your right ingredients as I was saying out there, you've got a wonderful sponsor, American Family, committed to golf, committed to the community and it shows in the way that they're doing stuff. If the local connection -- for Steve Stricker to spend his time, he and his family to spend their time creating this event, you know, that's a pretty special deal and I know you guys all appreciate it that are here in town. The community obviously loves to come to watch golf. I mean, I played the GMO for a number of years and then I also played Whistling Straits deal, the PGA, and that thing's out in the middle of nowhere and there's a ton of

people out there. So you guys love your golf no matter where in Wisconsin you're playing, and they're in for a treat those players when they come to Erin Hills next year and there's a hundred thousand of you roving the hills. So you've kind of got all the right stuff. It's up to our group, it's up to the Champions Tour players to show up and shoot the grass off the golf course if we can.

**Q. Going back to 16, did you see the scoreboard before or after you executed the chip?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Before, before I hit the chip.

**Q. And so you really (inaudible) it all or --**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** No, I don't think I had time to. You know, it was like, you know, it was my turn to play, I looked up, I was like that's kind of funny, you know, and I knew I had already made up my mind how I was going to execute the chip anyway because I had this little sprinkler between me and the hole and I knew I had to play one of these more lofted shots than I typically play. Not that it was difficult, but it just was the only shot that was available. And it was just like, oh, okay, so I went back and executed and, you know, when I got over to 17 I just figured two pars would win the golf tournament and I hit it in the middle of the green, didn't make it easy, but I got my two pars.

**Q. After your fourth birdie in a row on the back nine, did you have a feeling like maybe I can make a push to win this?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I knew at that point I had the lead, yeah. After I birdied 16 I had a two-shot lead over the guy in my group, so like I said, 17 and 18 are tough holes so I figured two pars would win the tournament and that's the way it ended up.

**Q. Going back to the start of the day, the fact that there was so much rain overnight, how did that impact with the play of golf that went on today, the ability to go out and just be aggressive?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I think where it helps a lot of times is on those wedge shots and these little pitch shots, you know, on No. 13, the short par 4 up the hill. A lot of times you won't get it 30 or 40 yards from the green because you're so dependent on the lie, but if you know you're going to be able to put it in a good lie you're not afraid of any little short pitch shot. So it could have affected me because I drove it in a divot on 18 and I was able to -- it wasn't a deep divot, it was a playable shot, but still it was much easier after rolling six inches, but the first three or four holes of the day, mud all over the ball. Half the ball covered in mud. It would have been frustrating as a player.

**Q. Talking to some of the other guys yesterday it was different for them to be on the golf course and the main attraction not be a professional golfer with Brett Favre out here playing his round. Did you ever get that vibe at all, what was it like to see**

**something like that?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I think we do probably a handful of those kind of things during the year, and I can tell you most of them there's more people following that group than there is following the golfers. And that's fine, this is what it's about is, you know. Not just professional golfers play golf, right. These people from all walks of life play golf from the pro-am to these exhibitions. So I always think it's very interesting and I always challenge the guys that I knew that were professional athletes that were my age and I would always tell them, yeah, you keep playing your sport, but you'll be playing mine eventually. And they all are now.

**Q. Kirk, when you had stepped on the 18th tee with the two-stroke lead, did you play that hole or strategically think about playing that hole any differently?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** I just kept aiming farther right. There was that big tall grass down there and you have a lot of room right. So when I hit it, Billy Andrade goes, Get down, get down. I go, Don't worry, it's okay over there. He goes, I've never seen anybody aim that far right on that hole.

**Q. And a follow-up to that question, then you're left with an approach, is that a little bit above your feet back there on that approach and if so were you able to cut it all or are you just playing to the front left?**

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Well, I was just playing for the middle of the green, you know. Yeah, the ball is above your feet, you don't want to get a little bit lungey, right, so just try to sit back on my heels a little bit, choke up on the club, do the things that you're supposed to do, right, that sometimes when you're in the lead or you're worried about the results you get distracted by that. So I did a nice job of adjusting to that shot because, yes, it was not an easy shot. I ended up in the right where I wanted to right in the hill 30 feet out from the pin.

**MODERATOR:** More questions? Thank you, Kirk.

**KIRK TRIPLETT:** Thanks, guys. On to Packers football.