FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: GARY BENDERT

July 10, 2016



GARY BENDERT: I actually started tearing up. The support, it was unbelievable. I guess it's all hitting me now.

Q. To kind of look back, Tuesday heading into the qualifier not knowing how it was going to go, you've only probably finished up five, 10 minutes or so, but if you can think back, what has this whole week just been like?

GARY BENDERT: Absolutely just crazy. I'm sorry. Just absolutely crazy. My heart's now going a mile a minute. I think it's all hitting me now.

Q. To finish up 18 there and have your family there waiting for you, what was that moment like?

GARY BENDERT: Fantastic. The crowd, everybody just texting and everything. I never thought I would get the support. Like I said, I thought they would stick me in the last group and play your three rounds and okay, go away. I never thought the fans would be behind me. Everyone just said, we don't care what you shoot, you're in, you're one of us. That's it.

Q. Certainly for anybody else out here, the score's something they wish to forget, but how much does everything else just kind of, like you said, your score for you didn't matter, it was more about the experience. How easy is it going to be to focus on the positives?

GARY BENDERT: Very easy, very easy. I don't even know what I shot today, to tell you the truth. It's just -- yeah, Billy Glasson came over during his round, came over and shook my hand and congratulated me. He didn't need to do that, but that was so nice. Yeah, this has been truly amazing, truly amazing.

Q. And you mentioned Glasson there with the congratulations. Bob Friend on Friday kind of taking you through steps. How have the champions, all the golfers who do this week in and week out, what has their support and their help meant to you?

GARY BENDERT: Oh, tremendous. They tried to calm me down, just go through it and enjoy it. It's different once you're inside, and it was different inside the ropes. The experience, I'll never forget, I'll never forget. It's almost like I can't wait for next year to qualify again. So yeah, I want to do it all over again, yeah.

Q. What are the emotions right now, what does it feel like just walking down the stairs?

GARY BENDERT: Yeah, I think it's all hitting me right now. It's just all -- it's just coming out right now. Happiness. Everybody's been fantastic to me. Like I said, I never thought this at all. I want to just sort of breathe.

Q. What do you do tomorrow, is it back to work?

GARY BENDERT: I don't know. I was thinking about taking a day off, calling her up, can I have one more day? So I don't know, I guess we'll play the rest of the day -- I'm glad I finished early so I can just sort of relax and chill out and just absorb more, I guess. This has been fantastic. Thank you all.