ROUND 1 INTERVIEW June 27, 2019



BRIAN STUARD (-6)

Q. How much fun was that?

BRIAN STUARD: It's pretty fun, I have to say.

Q. How what were the crowds like out there?

BRIAN STUARD: Awesome. All my friends and family came and watched. It's pretty special, for sure.

Q. How did your familiarity with the course work out today?

BRIAN STUARD: A little bit. I think it's one of those places where you've got to hit the fairway and you've got to kind of pay attention to where the pin's at on the greens. I hit some really nice irons on my back nine, which was nice.

Q. Do you think there was a turning point for you today at all?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, I think on No. 16 I was able to make that putt to get me back to even. Kind of just got me going a little bit, maybe settled me down a little bit, was able to play well from there.

Q. Maybe a bit of a dominoes effect, once birdies start?

BRIAN STUARD: Sure. I made two good putts at 16 and 17, and then I played pretty nice on my second nine, hit some really nice iron shots, so that was nice.

Q. What's it been like for you to come back obviously home and then play this course in front of all familiar faces?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, it's pretty special. I didn't get to play in the Buick Open when they had it, so to get to play in a PGA TOUR event in Michigan is pretty awesome.

Q. How long have you been actually with the (inaudible) since the day they announced it?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, no doubt. As soon as they announced it, they said it was going to be at Detroit Golf Club, such a classic, special course, so I think everybody's looking forward to it.

Q. Did you play this course much growing up?

BRIAN STUARD: I did a few times. I played the Horton Smith a couple times, but it's been a while.

Q. The OU people were out there today?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, definitely heard some "Go Grizzlies." That's cool, for sure.

Q. How gettable will this (inaudible) we saw some numbers pretty early?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, not much wind, greens were receptive, kind of take dead aim. I was able do that, so it was nice.

Q. Is this one of those courses that everyone's going to kind of come out and jump out and maybe it will level out as the week goes on?

BRIAN STUARD: That's a good point. You know, just depends on if they get it to dry out a little bit, I think. The greens are, like I said, pretty receptive right now, so if you hit a good iron shot, you're going to have a good chance.

Q. Do you feel like you're going to be that guy that a lot of people who don't maybe know a lot of the other names, they can start to gravitate towards with your day to day?

BRIAN STUARD: You know, we'll see. Hopefully that's the case, that would be cool.

Q. Tell us about your shot on 9.

BRIAN STUARD: Just 192, just kind of a smooth 5-iron and just came off nice and high and landed soft.

Q. What are some of the things for golfers who have maybe never played in Michigan (inaudible)?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, you know, I think it just kind of can just, you realize how great of a golf state Michigan is, how many great golf courses there are here. I think that's -- you know, not having a Tour event here the past how many years has been kind of a, I don't know, it's kind of negative, but just kind of miss out on some of these courses. Detroit Golf Club is such a great place.

Q. Given that this is probably some of the most friends and family you've ever had watching you at a Tour event, how do you keep your focus? Can it be a little distracting seeing people in the crowd that you know?

BRIAN STUARD: Sure, a little bit more, sure. I think probably beginning of the round I was probably a little nervous, a little unsettled maybe, but once I got on a roll I felt like I kind of fed off of everybody, so that was fun, a lot of fun.

Q. Pins seem to be pretty favorable today?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, it seemed like a lot of them were pretty accessible. There's going to be some good scores today, for sure.

Q. Because it's such an unknown, first time event and everything, is it necessarily a bad thing to maybe take it easy on the putters the first day, then maybe come back the next day?

BRIAN STUARD: You know, that's a good pace. Ty, my caddie, and I were talking about that, that it probably would be a little generous the first setup. So we'll see, we'll see how tomorrow is.

Q. Is this almost like your Buick Open? Used to be 20, 22 under would win that. Might that be the number this week?

BRIAN STUARD: That's kind of what everybody thought to start with and seems to be playing out that way so far.

Q. What's the routine after a great round like that?

BRIAN STUARD: Not much. Just go get a little lunch and just hang out, I guess.

Q. First time here at Detroit Golf Club. What can you tell our listeners about this golf course that they may not be able to see that are listening to us or watching on TV?

BRIAN STUARD: It's just a great old traditional golf course, tree lined, big tree-lined fairways and greens that got some slopes to 'em and you've got to kind of aim (inaudible).

Q. During your round, what really worked for you today?

BRIAN STUARD: I didn't get off to a very good start, and I guess about No. 16, my seventh hole, I made a good putt and kind of got me going, and then I hit some really nice irons on the back nine.

Q. A lot of players talk about a lot of the undulations on these greens. How challenging are they?

BRIAN STUARD: Yeah, they are. If you hit in the wrong spot or the wrong side of the hole, it can be tough. It's a place where you've got to -- if you hit it below the hole, you're going to feel good.