

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**August 16, 2019**



**DOUG BARRON (-7)**

---

**Q. Great start out there. You came in as a Monday qualifier and now you're leading here at 7 under. Just your thoughts on the round today.**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, I had a thought on my round and I thought teeing off that 6, 7, 8 under's a good round. I've been around this course 32 times in tournament rounds and played however many practice rounds here when I was on Tour, so I like the place, it fits my eye. Just like it reminds me of the two courses I grew up playing at home. So I've always played good here, I've had some good finishes here. So, you know, you can't get too excited on day one. You've got to get off to a fast start on this tour, as we all know.

**Q. Is it going to take more of those scores to hold everybody off over the next two days?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, you look at the past, look at all the scores they shoot here. What won last year, 18 or 17? Something crazy. I mean, it's just the key to this tour's the first round, in my opinion. Then you go out and play solid again and then you put yourself in position. You can't wait until the third round all the time and try to shoot 10 under. So I've kind of trained myself to get off to quicker starts than I used to when I played the PGA TOUR.

**Q. Bogey-free round. What was it like playing with all those guys?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Try bogey-free group. I mean, I didn't even know it because I was playing my own game, but a guy when we got done said you had a bogey-free group. No one had a bogey in our group, pretty strong threesome. I mean, played with two good friends. I'm just getting -- turning 50 and getting started with this deal, so I'm very happy with how I'm playing right now. I'm very confident in what I'm doing. Just trying to shoot scores. There's a lot of good players out here.

**Q. Seems like those who drive it straight seem to score low here. Did that ring true for you today?**

**DOUG BARRON:** I think that works on every course on this tour. I've got my driver kind of where I want to. I didn't actually -- actually, I didn't drive it the greatest today. Nine and 10 I drove it right and I ended up playing those two holes 1 under, which is unheard of when you drive it right. So I kind of stole two shots, if you ask me.

But other than that, I hit it really nice today. I had a lot of putts and had to get one ball up and down, it was a tough one. But the course, the course is the best I've ever seen it when I

played here. Back in the '90s and early 2000s it wasn't always that great, but man, whoever's the superintendent, I've got to take my hat off to him. He's amazing.

**Q. Where was the save you just referenced?**

**DOUG BARRON:** What's the par 3, is it 14?

**Q. Yeah.**

**DOUG BARRON:** I pulled it just a little. I pulled it about 10 feet off my line and I chipped it to four feet and made a nice putt. I hit a really good chip, so I felt like Tiger Woods on that chip shot. It was fun.

**Q. When was the last time you played here?**

**DOUG BARRON:** 2006 was the last time I was on the PGA TOUR, so I played -- I think I finished fifth. Don't quote me. I had a fifth here one year, but whenever Spike McRoy won, maybe in '03. We played it on like literally sodded greens and I gave my putter to my caddie and I got one from one of the reps just because I didn't want to break mine because the greens weren't so good. I had a great putting week, but today was fun.

**Q. Is it tough for 13 years in between playing a round at a certain course?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, no, not at all. I hit it a little farther than I did when I played the PGA TOUR, but I would say once I played the practice round, the pro-am, started to see the course again and got my sights down, no. I've played this course so many times and I really liked it. I came here every year I was on the PGA TOUR. And I love the people here and I love the crowds. We're going to have fun tonight with Keith urban playing. It's a fun week. I loved it when it was a Tour event.

**Q. Is it hard to believe that they had another 100-year flood since you played here last?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Oh, my gosh. So I stayed in Owego on Monday to do the Monday qualifier and I was talking to some people and talking about -- because they have all these beautiful 150-year-old homes and I just couldn't believe what they told me about the flood over there. It's a great community over here, I love you guys.

**Q. Just one other thing. How much confidence -- well, 67 and T-5, how much confidence did that give you?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, it didn't start just there. I've been playing the Emerald Coast Tour, I've been playing our state Open, I've been doing a lot of stuff, so I've been building confidence over the last year. It's not a fluke. I've won three of those Emerald Coasts from start to finish, so I've built a lot of confidence over the deal. I didn't win our state Open

getting into the final group, but I keep putting myself in these positions where you can play with your -- I got my nerves back again. That being said, it's not guaranteed every time, but I'm having fun at golf and it's a different deal.

**Q. And when was your birthday?**

**DOUG BARRON:** 7/24/69. I turned 50 the day before the Senior British. I may be the youngest guy out here this week.