

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
July 1, 2021

DOUG BARRON



DOUG BARRON: (In progress) the Champions Tour and I saw where I turned 50 on the Wednesday of the Senior British Open. So I told my wife I was going to go over there and try to qualify and she thought I was crazy. So I went over there and finished fifth, won the qualifier and ended up finishing fifth. If it would have never been for that, I would have never won this tournament, so I'm so grateful I made that decision. Coming over here and -- coming over here and prequalifying and winning and being here for 12 days is one of the coolest experiences of my life, quite honestly.

Q. Doug, how often do you still find yourself thinking back about that day here?

DOUG BARRON: I do a lot of meditation. You hear Mickelson talk about that, I kind of do the same thing. So I think about it almost daily because I want to see myself holding either this trophy or a new trophy every day. So I do think about it a lot.

I have a picture of me in the Charles Schwab Cup and the Dick's trophy. I took that before the final round because I wanted to remember it just in case it did happen. I was pretty confident. You've got to think positive, you've got to think you're going to go out and do it, and fortunately that day I did it, so it was cool.

Q. Coming back this year as the defending champion, do you have a lot more confidence coming into this year's tournament?

DOUG BARRON: No, I was playing like the best golf of my life, honestly, and it's like when you have nothing to lose, that was kind of the mentality I had. So my wife tells me every day, get to that same mentality and have fun, so that's what I'm trying to do. I'm playing really good again right now, so I'm excited about that. I try to enjoy every day and I take myself very seriously.

Q. Coming out of qualifying and getting the win last time, how much has that helped you going in, even though you haven't been here in a while. No one has for that matter.

DOUG BARRON: Well, I played here eight times on the PGA TOUR, so I know the course backwards and forwards. I've got good experiences here. I had a couple top-10s on the PGA TOUR here. But I love the course, I love the people and Broome County. I'm having a great week. Ate at a great restaurant last night and I like to eat when I come up here.

Q. When you say you like the course, how does it play to you?

DOUG BARRON: Well, I just like it because it's kind of tree-lined and tight and it helps my ADD. (Laughs.)

Q. So how is this tournament going to help you get ready for the next tournaments coming up?

DOUG BARRON: Well, it's not. I'm only going to worry about this tournament. Next week's going to be very hot and it's going to be a long week. This week is what I'm focused on, I'm not even thinking about next week yet. That's a good question. I'm focused on this tournament.

Q. Curious if you have anything in your house from this victory beyond the trophy. Do you have the flag?

DOUG BARRON: I do. Well, I've got a bunch of flags and I gave one to my sons. I think I got about 15 of them. I gave them out to really good friends and guys who helped me get out here and my two sons.

Q. Do you have any family here this week?

DOUG BARRON: No. My wife was going to come up, but my son's been at a tennis camp for three weeks and he gets back Saturday, so she's got to go pick him up in Nashville. But she wanted to come up here.

I'm excited to play. Yeah, I do have a lot of flags in a lot of places, and I do have -- the scorecard is all framed, all the four scorecards are framed at my home course, or in the pro shop, so that's pretty cool as well.

Q. What course is that?

DOUG BARRON: Windyke Country Club. I'm a member at three courses, but that one's where I grew up, so it's pretty cool.

Q. How strange of a year was it last year with COVID, not being here at enjoy to defend 12 months later?

DOUG BARRON: Well, it was strange. It was strange for everybody. We were just fortunate to play 12 events last year, quite honestly. I was just glad to get a chance to go compete. It really wasn't the same without fans. I'm so glad to have the fans back because that's honestly what makes us do what we do. It's hard -- for me especially, it's hard to do those special things when no one's watching you. I'm very fortunate the fans are back and we're moving through this.

Q. I think the big question, you said you had something good to eat last night. Where did you eat at?

DOUG BARRON: I ate at the Cortese restaurant and I had veal piccata and some calamari that was not fried. Maybe an old-fashioned and a Manhattan. I didn't want to discriminate between the two, so I had one of each. That's how I roll.

Q. What are you going to eat tonight?

DOUG BARRON: I don't know what I'm going to eat tonight. I don't know what time we get done. I'll probably go to Mo's, unfortunately. I've got to try to make the Bible study at 8:00. My friend Mike Goodes is going to be on the Zoom and I can't wait to see his face.