

DOUG BARRON (-5)

DOUG BARRON: It's way more difficult than I think everyone expected, plus the wind was different. I didn't get in town until Tuesday night and played in an exact opposite wind, so I had to make a couple of adjustments, but whenever you go bogey free. I had to make a couple 10-footers for pars, but I played solid. It's just I don't think there's a really low, low score out there and it's kind of proven to you that that's right because I don't think anybody's going to get to 8 under today or something, which is usually during the week. The course is very -- you have to stay awake on your second shots big time out here. Great golf course. Tough on the greens.

Q. What was your sense of the crowd, the buzz around this event?

DOUG BARRON: Well, you have to concentrate a little. I mean, it's good to have -- I know St. Louis is a great sports town. I'm from Memphis just down the river. But some of these tees are really close and it gets really loud. I like it, it doesn't bother me, but it keeps you focused honestly. Yeah, there's a lot of people out here, and I'm excited for the fans of St. Louis to have golf again, so it's cool, I'm excited for them.

Q. You mentioned Lou, Jr. Do you know Lou, Jr.? He was a prolific high school star here in town, too.

DOUG BARRON: Well, he's not only a high school story, he played in the NFL, he's a great businessman in town and friend. Yeah, we had dinner last night at 801 Chophouse and I sat there for two and a half hours and I could listen to his stories all night. But he's a good friend and he's a really good friend, inspirational. We talked about my son, we talked about just how do you succeed in life, and he's a great believer in Christ and just an unbelievable person. Anytime I can be around him I try to get around him.

Q. Did you know his dad a little bit?

DOUG BARRON: I only got to literally meet him one time just very briefly, so no, I never really knew him. I've read about him because of Lou. He just did a nice special on him a few days ago because it's coming up on the one-year anniversary of his passing. Anytime I can be around Lou. He came out and walked with me seven holes. He's a great motivator for me because I know he played in the NFL for three years, he played for USC, great sports guy himself. I try not to think of him as Lou Brock's son, I try to think of him as Lou Brock, Jr., so he's my friend.

Q. You're not the first person who said that if you played here yesterday for the first time that it was like a different experience today.

DOUG BARRON: I know. It was really different, yeah.

Q. Anything besides the wind that was --

DOUG BARRON: No. If I had it to do over again, I'd hit a couple different tee balls. For example, hole No. 3 I wouldn't hit a driver again. I ended up driving it in the right bunker and I had a very difficult shot. I'd probably hit a hybrid like Kevin Sutherland did. I was thinking about it because he had the tee and I didn't -- not knowing the course, I'm kind of aggressive because I like to hit driver every hole if I can, so that was a learning experience today.

I didn't do anything that cost me any shots, it's just the course was -- to get on the front, it was hard for me to get any birdies on the back. I really hit a great second shot on 15 and I just barely overhooked it after hitting a really good drive, so I think that ball would have been on the green instead of bunker if it doesn't catch the edge of that bunker and that's the only where I left a shot. And then I drove it through the fairway at 16 after hitting a really good -- I mean, I only had a sand wedge in out of the rough. I loved where I hit it off the tee, just a little different lines when the wind blows different, so that was it.

Q. A lot of guys are saying that the scores are not as low as maybe they might have expected or it's going to be really tough to maybe get to double digits.

DOUG BARRON: I think it's always hard to judge a new course when we play it, but these greens are what makes the course. You've got to put it in the fairway obviously, so I thought 4 under a day was a good score. I'm kind of on pace, so I'll just kind of see what's going on tomorrow.

I can only reach two of the par 5s. I could have got lucky and reached the third one with a better bounce, but we can only get two par 5s, you've got to think where are you going to get your other birdies. You've got a couple short par 4s on the front, but on the back, you know, there's two really good par 3s. We all three hit it within 30 yards of the pin at 11 and walked off with par. So what does that tell you about 11? It's a difficult hole. I hit a great drive and walked off with a par. Kevin Sutherland hit a great chip, Kenny Perry drove it over the green and still made par. We walked off with three pars, so that's not a gimme hole. I don't even consider it a birdie hole, honestly. I'm just trying to hit a good drive and put myself in position to get a birdie putt, if you want to know the truth. I've never thought of a 300-yard par 4 like that in my life except 10 at Riviera.

Q. You've been having a nice little one here lately, a win last month in Canada, a nice finish in the last event in Michigan. What's been going right for you?

DOUG BARRON: Well, I've always said what would it be like if it just didn't matter because I'm kind of like that right now. I didn't get to practice a lot when I was home last week because I got a hurt neck and I'm taking next week off to get that hopefully fixed a little.

But I'm enjoying playing, I'm not living and dying over every shot. I've told my coaches, you know, I'm just playing -- it's the old cliché, but really it's the first time in my life I've ever been able to free it up this much and see how good I can be. And I'm playing really aggressive. I'm an aggressive player anyway, so I'm just kind of going with it. I don't know. It's pretty fun right now.

I've got a great coach, I've got to give him a lot of credit. I actually Zoomed with him on the tee box. There's one little thought I was having before I teed off and he helped me. So the thoughts are simple. I've worked on the same thing for four years. I never did that when I played on the PGA TOUR, now I'm keeping things a little simpler so it's fun. I'm kind of enjoying it.

Q. What's up with your neck?

DOUG BARRON: I've just got bone spurs like every other person probably. I'm going to get a little nerve block next week and take the week off and try to finish off the rest of the year, you know, make a run at it. I was going to come play the best I can play this week. At some point, if I want to win this Charles Schwab Cup, I've got to win a couple, so I'm trying to get in position before Richmond because I really like the courses in the Playoffs and I'm just trying to shoot the lowest scores I can shoot into the Playoffs and just try to get in that position to make a run.

Q. What's your coach's name?

DOUG BARRON: Shaun Webb. He's a great guy. Friends with David Toms as well out here and he's helped me for four years. Great guy.