

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**September 18, 2021**



**PAUL STANKOWSKI (-9)**

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**Q. Paul Stankowski, after opening with five straight pars, you started making some birdies. Can you talk us through that stretch at the end?**

**PAUL STANKOWSKI:** Holy moly, yeah. I made a nice birdie at 6 and then those next about five holes were a blur. I chipped in on 7 from over the green, had a ball set down so I tried to belly it, bellied it, hit the pin, dropped in. Eight, missed the green short right dead, dead, super flop to five feet, made it for par. Nine, I hit it to five feet, made birdie. Ten, I hit a pulled draw 5-iron short left in the rough, hit a nice little flop shot to about eight feet, made that for par. Next hole I drew a driver into the trees, hit a little punch 6-iron through the trees over the green into a spot that was impossible and I hit a flop shot that landed on the fringe and trickled right in the hole for another birdie.

And at that point I think everybody in the group was pissed because I'm that guy, like are you kidding me?

Anyway, it was good. I settled down, I hit a lot of quality shots down the stretch. I hit the same shot on 17 and I hit on 10, 5-iron, just pulled it left and made a nice birdie at 18. We read it right, Mark and I saw a little bit of left to right in there and poured it in. Pleased. I hadn't -- I think I've had two rounds this year where I've made more than two putts over 10 feet and that's hard to shoot low. It's hard to compete out here with these guys when you're not making a lot of putts.

I just keep -- it's been that kind of very boring golf on the greens. Tuesday in the qualifier I made five over 10 feet, one on the last hole to actually get me in this thing. Today I didn't -- I think -- I have to go back, I made probably four putts over 10 feet with two chip-ins. This is one of those days I've been waiting for. I've been driving it well, I missed one fairway yesterday, hitting a lot of greens and I've just been waiting for the putter to heat up. So I'm hoping that this is a good sign.

**Q. Who's your caddie this week?**

**PAUL STANKOWSKI:** Marc LeBas. And this is a great story. Marc LeBas, my rookie year, 1994, I missed the first three cuts with my brother on the bag by a shot, a shot, and two shots. Anyway, I thought I had a couple weeks off, took a week off the week of L.A., didn't touch a club, did some things with my church, we hosted a bunch of sixth graders, I played football with them all weekend, threw my shoulder out.

Wake up Monday, tried to play golf, I shot 80 at home at El Paso Country Club. Woke up Tuesday morning and they called and said I'm in the tournament, which starts tomorrow,

Wednesday, the Bob Hope. It was a five-dayer. So I didn't have a caddie, my brother wasn't going to come out. So I called the tournament and the caddie master and he said, Hey, Elkington's caddie, Marc LeBas, is standing right here, Elk pulled out, you've got his spot. I said, great, tell him I'll be on the driving range an hour before my time.

So I met him the day before we played. That week I made my first cut. I eagled the last hole to finish tied for sixth, so first cut on the tour as a rookie, tied for 6th with Marc LeBas.

This week is our second week together 27 years later. He was working for Harrison Frazar a little bit and Harry missed in the qualifier and I asked him if he had anybody. He didn't, so here we are. So we had our first practice rounds ever this week and yeah, lo and behold we find ourselves in the mix. He likes to think we have a top-6 average, which we do in one start, so let's see if we can build on that.