



**DARREN CLARKE ( -12, won on second playoff hole with birdie)**

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**Q. Darren, it took a playoff, but you won the Sanford International. How does it feel?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, it's nice to win again. I won at the end of last year in Boca and then the first tournament this year in Hawaii, so it's been a little bit of time since then. It's nice to get back in the winner's circle again. In the playoff you never know what's going to happen, anybody can make birdie and luckily it was my day today.

**Q. Darren, that par you made on the first playoff hole was pretty incredible actually.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah. In regulation, playing the 72nd hole in regulation, I drove where I drove it the second time and I thought, well, if I chip it, I could spin it and check it into the slope, but don't leave it down here. I left it down there and then holed it. On the second time around I thought, well, I know the speed now, but the ball just went right. The third time around I was just that stubborn that I was going to prove to myself that I could hit it the right distance, and I did.

**Q. And you had the fans encouraging you there, too.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, they've been very good to me. As I said there in my speech, you know, I've really enjoyed my time here in Sioux Falls. The fans have been brilliant. I've had maybe a little beverage with one or two of them in the past, so it's been nice to have that atmosphere and that support, it's always wonderful.

**Q. What is it about this course you like so much?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** I don't know. I think if you drive it well here, you can score well. The driver's probably my favorite club in the bag, so today I drove the ball well. I hit it long and I hit it straight, so if I do that, then hopefully I've got a chance to contend, and I did.

**Q. How much tougher is it hitting shots into the green with that wind at your back? It's so hard to stop the ball.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Then you're relying on the quality of your ball-striking. You've got to strike the ball properly to stop it. It was tough, it was tricky, but you saw good scores yesterday and saw good scores today. The course was just difficult, but very playable. If you played well, you could score well, but if you were slightly off, you could have a big penalty in that wind.

**Q. Did you know when you were on the front of the green on 18 the first time around**

**in regulation Steve was on the tee box at 13 under? Did you know that?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** No, no, I didn't. I can't control -- I'm trying to do the best that I can do and I was trying to birdie the last and try to get to 12 under par. The last time I had looked they were both at 12 under and I was trying to get to join them and take my chances from there.

**Q. How about three wins this season?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, it's been incredible. It's nice to -- it was nice to get my break-through win in Boca last year and then the Tournament of Champions, and to win again, I've been working so hard. I had a chance at the one that I really, really wanted in the middle of the summer there, the British Senior Open, and I had a chance there, didn't quite get it done. It's nice then to come along to win again. I have two weeks off down in Abaco, down home. Sit in front of my TV, I'll watch every shot of the Ryder Cup, I'll really enjoy it, and I may have a beer or two to go along with it.

**Q. Just two?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Probably 10.

**Q. K.J. has been so consistent and the wind the way it was, did you think you had it in you today?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, I played really well the first day and then yesterday I struggled a little bit, but then went to the range and worked for a couple hours last night and then did the same again today. My ball-striking this morning was way better on the range again.

This is a light breeze at home, this isn't really a strong wind. The only difference here is at home it's about 30, 40 degrees colder and a bit of rain, so this is tricky but nothing new to me. You give me windy conditions and I welcome them.

**Q. Coming to the playoff hole, did you have a bit of a more aggressive mindset playing this hole again?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** No. I've hit driver here every day, so that's the way I see this hole and the way I like to hit a little bit of a soft draw if I can and it sets up perfectly for me with the fairways as firm as they are. I've hit good drives here every day.

**Q. The last time we chatted was at the Ryder Cup when you were captain.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, thanks for that.

**Q. Well, I wasn't going to talk about results. How cool is this upcoming week for you to just be able to sit back and watch it? What was that experience like?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** It was brilliant. It's a huge honor to be a Ryder Cup captain, I had a thoroughly enjoyable time. My American captain, Davis Love, has been a great friend of mine for many, many years, and still is. That particular week the American team played really well and the best team won.

I think Whistling Straits, I've played there a couple times now, I led the PGA there, it's a wonderful golf course, it's a tough golf course. It's going to be a brilliant match play golf course, one of the most exciting ones I think we'll see in a long time because if your opponent hits it in the rubbish or hits it in trouble, there's no easy bailout at Whistling Straits. You've still got to hit a golf shot. So from a viewing point of view, I think it's going to be sensational. I'm not going to miss a shot of it.

**Q. How much more fun is it to play in that team event? I know today was great for you, but in general.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Yeah, Ryder Cup, there's nothing like a Ryder Cup. It's the ultimate. It's the ultimate amount of pressure, the ultimate feeling of this is where your golf game is at. If you're on that team, you deserve to be on that team. It's an intimidating place, that first tee, but it's a brilliant -- it's a weird thing to describe, you can't really describe it.

So one of the legends of the European Tour, a guy called Sam Torrance, who was a Ryder Cup captain himself, before I played in my first one he said to me, "The playing in the Ryder Cup is like having your first child; until you do it, you never understand what it's all about." That was as good an analogy as I've ever heard of what it's like in the Ryder Cup. It's both intimidating, exhilarating, it's everything, and at Whistling Straits this year you've got two brilliant teams. I think it's going to be really, really close.

**Q. Darren, now that you won this week and you're taking next week off --**

**DARREN CLARKE:** Next two weeks.

**Q. -- next two weeks, do you feel like maybe now you can chase the Schwab Cup?**

**DARREN CLARKE:** I don't know, I'm a little bit far back. Those guys that are up on top of there have played consistently well. I've played well for quite a few weeks, but not quite enough. You know, I'll still go out and try and win again before the end of the year and try to get myself in contention, but I'm probably a little bit too far back for it in all fairness.

For me, I'm really enjoying the challenge of being out here. I want to play on a Sunday afternoon where every shot on the back nine makes a difference and every shot matters and the only way that happens is when you're in contention.

**Q. This tour keeps getting better and better.**

**DARREN CLARKE:** This tour is wonderful. You have so many Hall of Famers out here playing. You've got to play properly to win out here.