

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

CHRIS KIRK (-7)



Q. Chris, what a start for you. You get up at, what, 0-dark-30, warm up, you couldn't even see the ball go into the hole at the 10th. Talk me through the hole.

CHRIS KIRK: Yeah, made me feel a little better about my 4:30 wake-up call this morning. Yeah, No. 10, it was 204, perfect -- got to land it a little bit short, so perfect 6-iron for me to land it a little short. I hit a really good shot. We were first group out, so it was still kind of overcast and dark, and walking up, as we got close to the green, it was like there's not a ball there, there's not a ball there. Justin, my caddie, was like, "I swear I saw it rolling on the green," so I was like, "It's either in or just over in the rough," and sure enough, Danny and Jonas actually got up there before I did and started celebrating early.

Q. Where are you going to be hanging out tonight so we can come by and get a free drink?

CHRIS KIRK: Yeah, thankfully, I'm not staying right here on property, so I'm going to go hide out from everybody.

Q. Not only do you make the hole-in-one, but what a start, you pick up another birdie and then you make an eagle at the par 5 13th hole, you're 5 under after your first four holes. Talk me through the eagle.

CHRIS KIRK: Yeah, I hit an okay drive on 13 and was kind of in between a 5-wood and a 4-iron. Hit a little kind of chippy cut 5-wood that just stayed on the back edge of the green and made a 40-, 50-footer.

The funny thing about the start is it was almost better on No. 11. I hit it right down the middle and hit a wedge from 85 yards or so that landed just short, hopped up, like either grazed the edge of the hole, like just missed going in and spun back to the fringe and I didn't make it. I think it touched the hole; if not, it was within an inch of going in my second shot. So that would have been insane, eagle, eagle, birdie, eagle.

Yeah, I was definitely happy with the start, and then had a little bit of a rough stretch around the turn. Then it poured down rain for a few holes and then got a couple birdies right after that. It was a little bit of a strange day, but a lot of fun out there.

Q. No sense being too greedy too early in the tournament, you can afford a lip-out on a Thursday morning. Tell me about the rest of the day. You have your family down here. Have you done any fun things and are you going to go out to the beach?

CHRIS KIRK: Yeah, going to be mostly beach and pool. My boys are 4, 7 and 9 now, so they're all swimming like crazy and just having fun. Yeah, I'm excited to get back and see them and my wife, and my mom and dad are here, so should be a fun just relaxing afternoon.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRIS KIRK: (in progress) to be able to tee off on time or not. We got over there, it was just light enough to kind of see what we were doing, but I hit a really good shot and saw it going right at it and that was it. I couldn't see beyond that. It was definitely -- once we got up there and didn't see a ball on the green, we had a decent idea of where it might be, but Jonas and Danny actually got up to the hole before me and saw that immediate reaction of arms in the air and started clapping. It was pretty cool.

Q. Do you know who the last player to ace their first hole of a round on the PGA TOUR?

CHRIS KIRK: No clue.

Q. Happened to be a fellow Bulldog, Keith Mitchell, same hole in 2017, a few years ago.

CHRIS KIRK: Nice.

Q. So overall how do you feel about your game, your position -- obviously your position, it's still early, but how do you feel about your game coming into the week?

CHRIS KIRK: I feel pretty good. I did some really good work early this week with Ramon Bescansa, my putting coach, kind of some same stuff that we've been doing. Then also Scott Hamilton's down here, my swing coach who I've been with for 10 years or so. Definitely saw some things that were a little bit more off than I expected, just alignment, setup, stuff like that, which is kind of my main focus of my golf swing.

I feel like if I get all those fundamentals really good, then the shape of my swing's going to be good. Just getting a little bit crossed up with my shoulders open, feet closed. Kind of working on that, but really feel very good about what I'm doing. And when I get set up correctly and I trust it -- that's the hard part, is trusting the little adjustments that I've made -- then it feels really good.