

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
May 5, 2022

DENNY McCARTHY (-



Q. Something special about mom's burgers on the grill? You did great today.

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, burgers on the grill the other night and steak and crab cakes and a good salad last night, so definitely feel right at home.

Q. I mean, a lot of hometown fans super excited to see you doing so well.

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, it's an exciting week. There's been a lot of build-up to today's first round and I was just excited to kind of get out here and get on the course in the morning. It's probably there's a little stress and tension leading up, but once I get on the golf course I feel really comfortable. It was just a great day. I felt really comfortable out there, was seeing the lines on the greens, was seeing the shots from the fairways and I just had a really good clear committed picture all day.

Q. Would you like to make your hometown a regular stop on the tour?

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, I wouldn't be opposed to that, I would love to come here every year.

Q. Denny, you said last time 2018 you handled it well being here. What changed? Was there different mental preparation or --

DENNY McCARTHY: This is my fifth year on Tour, so just a lot of experience, just playing tournament golf. I had probably played only 20 tournaments on Tour up until that point, now I've probably played 130. Just a lot of tournament golf and getting that little extra experience here and there definitely has helped me this week.

Q. Can you give us an idea in terms of family who was here watching you? I had asked you about some of your high school golf buddies.

DENNY McCARTHY: I think they're going to be here this weekend, some of my high school buddies. Just a lot of family friends. I played a bunch of sports growing up so a lot of parents of friends that I grew up with. It was good to see them out there.

Q. And to get this number with the weather coming in, what kind of position do you feel you're in heading into the weekend?

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, I don't know. I definitely wanted to get out and get a good round today. I don't know what it's going to be like tomorrow, if it's going to be cold, windy,

rainy. May play 9, may play 18, may not play at all, just got to be prepared for anything and I feel like I do a pretty good job of that.

Q. With your success today, how much of it do you feel like was a result of having a really good day on the course and how much of it do you feel like kind of stems from the comfort of being home this week and having your family here?

DENNY McCARTHY: I think a little bit of everything and I think also just the prep work I put in. I've alluded to it a few different times. I haven't probably played this golf course as many times as people think. I've still played it a decent amount, maybe a few more rounds than others, but I played nine Sunday, played nine Monday, played nine Tuesday, played nine Wednesday and really spent some time coming up with a game plan. Have felt really comfortable executing it.

Q. I know obviously you're not done yet this week, but just to have this day, this experience today to come out at the end of the course tied for the lead, what was that moment like to walk -- I don't know if you knew at the exact second that you were, but what was that like to know that?

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, I knew I was up at the top. It felt like a Sunday a little bit, honestly. I think that's only a good thing, I felt really comfortable. If I'm in that spot on Sunday, I got a little taste of it today, honestly. There was a decent amount of people following and I could feel the energy. I think that's only going to bode well for me.

Q. Just last went from me, did you get any chance to sneak away over to your parents?

DENNY McCARTHY: I saw everyone out there following me. I tried to kind of -- I gave them waves and I tried to kind of just keep to myself and what I was doing, though.

Q. Just a follow-up to what you were telling me when you were walking off the course, you said it was the steak, the crab cakes and you love mom's home cooking. So is this going to be a regular? Are you expecting steak tonight from mom?

DENNY McCARTHY: I don't know, I'll see what she's got on the dinner menu. She likes to change it up a little bit, but usually her meals are pretty darn good, so I'm excited for her surprise tonight.

Q. How many people are you used to seeing follow you on a Thursday and Friday and how does today compare?

DENNY McCARTHY: The numbers are probably single digits, I can probably count on one hand if not two hands. So it was nice to -- like I said, it kind of felt like a Sunday just having a nice crowd here. The fact that I was really comfortable under those circumstances is encouraging.

Q. Last one, boring question after all the fun stuff, how important was it for you getting out to a good start on 10?

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, 10, 11 -- 10's a hard par 5, just want to get it in play. I've kind of had it set in my mind that I'm going to lay up on that hole every day, hit two quality shots. I hit an okay wedge shot and then made a 20- to 25-footer to start the day with perfect speed and that kind of -- that's a good sign. If you're hitting your first putt when you might be a little nervous and it's perfect speed and goes right in the middle, that's a good start to the day. Then stepped right up on 11 after that and piped a 3-wood right down the middle, 6-iron to the front edge. It was a really good first two holes. And then put a good swing on a 6-iron on 12 and hit it in there 15 feet. So it was a great start. I was coming out, like I said, I was seeing the shots clearly and I was making good, committed swings.