

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW**  
**May 7, 2023**

**WYNDHAM CLARK ( -19)**



**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** We would like to welcome Wyndham Clark, our newest Wells Fargo Championship winner. Congratulations on your first PGA TOUR win. What are the emotions you're going through right now?

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Honestly, it's really, it's surreal. I've dreamt about this since I was probably 6 years old. Since I've been on the PGA TOUR, you fantasize about it all the time, and I've done it multiple times this year where I catch myself daydreaming about winning, and to do it at this golf course against this competition is better than I could ever have imagined.

**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** Exceptional play over the last four days. Just talk about how dialed in you were on this very tough golf course.

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I mean, I honestly had most -- I mean, pretty much every part of my game clicking. I drove it really good most of the week, I really made some nice putts yesterday and today, some clutch putts when I needed to, and then my short game was there when I needed it. Every part of my game I felt like was clicking.

**Q. Being in contention and failing to win can go a couple of ways for players, it can create scar tissue and make it harder next time. It seems like you leaned on those experiences and learned from it today. I'm curious specifically what you took from your previous close calls and at what moments that kind of helped you.**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I mean, to be honest, when I lost in, where were we, in the Dominican this year, I was beginning to think that maybe I'll never win. I know that sounds crazy because I've only been out here five years, but I had a lot of chances to where I was within two or three shots either going into the back nine or starting on a Sunday and I always seem to fall short, and not only that, but seem like I fell back in positions.

There was multiple texts and calls and times when I was so frustrated with people in my camp where I didn't think I would ever win and I was like, let's just stop talking about it, because I didn't want to think about it. I said maybe that's just not in the cards for me.

So being in the position this time, I was like, well, we've done -- we know what not to do. I really learned from those experiences and I felt like today when I didn't have the best start early on, I just told myself to relax, I have a lot more holes, you can't win the tournament after the first few holes on a Sunday, little things where in the past I would have gotten fast and quick and already my mind's going forward. So I stayed really patient, present and I think that's what kind of calmed me down. Then ultimately when I got into a groove, helped



me propel to make the birdies and win this tournament.

**Q. Congrats on the win. You were talking to us yesterday, you said you were excited for the pressure and to see how you would handle it in the moment. Xander made a couple runs at you, you guys made those back-to-back birdies, you were able to respond to what he was doing, so how do you feel you responded in the moment down the stretch there especially?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, that's fun. I think in the past I sometimes shied away maybe from those pressure moments because I would get too amped up.

That's one of the hardest things in golf is you have all these emotions and you're so excited out there and you then have to touch and hit something with so much touch and pace. So in the past I feel like I struggled with that.

Today, like you said, I was excited. When he made putts, I was like, yeah, all right, now I've got to do it. I just think Xander and I fed off each other really well Saturday and Sunday. He played amazing and I think a lot of how good I played was because he was putting pressure on me. So I just felt like all right, I can't just coast in and make a bunch of pars, I've got to make birdies. Yeah, I really like how I handled the pressure.

**Q. With the bogey start, obviously that kind of set things off kilter for you, but when did you finally feel like you were comfortable within the round? And then in the mid portion when you were making birdies and Xander kind of gave a couple of shots back from 9 through 12, that stretch there, was that kind of a moment that you smelled some blood in the water, we can put this thing away?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I would say I felt pretty comfortable once I kind of hit the green on hole 6 and then hit in the fairway on 7, because those are two kind of tough pivotal holes where you can easily make a bogey on 6 or hit a foul ball on 7 and something crazy can happen.

I felt like when I kind of got those in play and put myself in position, I was like, all right, we're in this thing, calm down, relax. Obviously I would have liked to have made that putt on 7, but following up with a great pitch on 8 and making birdie on that hole, that's when I really loosened up.

And then yeah, I think when he bogeyed 9 and then I birdied 10 and then he bogeyed 11, I was like, all right, this is -- let's not let him back into this tournament. My caddie, John, and I made sure that we were pretty conservative into certain holes and then other ones be aggressive. For instance, like on 14 we laid up again and, you know, people might question that play with my distance, but I hit a cut and the wind is off the left and I felt like it's either going to go way right or I have to start it over the lake and I can bring in a bogey. Things like that where we were conservative, but then I took advantage and hit great shots and I made birdie on that hole and then the par 5. So I didn't let Xander get back into it to the best of my



ability.

**Q. You talk about being in this position before and what you learned. What were your emotions like through those first two holes when you go from two up to essentially tied?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** You know, you kind of think about a bunch of different scenarios. I knew Xander was going to play well, but I also knew it was going to be tough. My caddie kept preaching to me as we were warming up, he was like, hey, get your mind wrapped around that it's going to be challenging, it's a lot windier today, it's going to be tough pins.

So I knew when I was -- we were all square, if you told me Wednesday or Thursday that I would be all tied for the lead with whatever it was, 11 holes to go, I would have taken it. So I kept reminding myself, hey, I'm in a position to win.

Sure, early on it wasn't as pretty as I wanted and I didn't maintain the lead, but as I started making birdies and putts, I started to really believe that I could do this. And fortunately Xander made some mistakes and then it really propelled me to continue playing well.

**Q. I know you get a lot from this win, but what does it mean to make it into the Open Championship? I think you were one of the three.**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I made it last year for my first time at St. Andrews, which, I mean, besides probably playing at Augusta would be the No. 1 course I'd want to play, especially a major championship. Tiger played and all the greats have played there, so to make it in again is amazing.

Obviously it makes the schedule, me planning my schedule a little easier. I love going to play links golf, so I'm real excited playing it.

**Q. You spoke the last couple days about sort of the old you before you addressed your mental game. Those first seven holes were tough. I mean, what do you think would have happened had the old you been presented with those first seven holes?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** A lot of what happened is I would get too amped up and I would show a lot of emotion, which then makes it tougher for me to make good solid swings. You know, not necessarily -- I don't know if I would have made bogeys or a lot of mistakes, but I would have been way more uncomfortable and it would have been even tougher. That's what I felt like in the past, it always seemed so tough for me on Sundays.

Today I wouldn't let my mind go in that direction. I just kept reminding myself that I could play great golf and I could play good golf on Sundays. I didn't want to be the person that I was in previous Sundays in previous years because that person, you know, probably shoots 2, 3 over today or even more and loses his head and gets mad out there and doesn't control his emotions. So I was really happy with how I handled all of it.



**Q. And then one of the lessons that winners often talk about is that they realize they don't have to be perfect to win. It's like a sort of an a-ha moment. Is that something that you're kind of realizing right now, you don't have to be perfect?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** For sure. Obviously today I wasn't perfect. I started off with a bogey and missed the first few greens. Even on the back side hit some squirrely shots here and there and I even missed some short putts, like the ones on 7 and 9, I really wanted those ones, I thought that was going to make things easier. But I kept telling myself, honestly, I've had multiple texts between my caddie or coaches or mentors, whatever saying, hey, you don't have to be perfect today, you just have to get the ball in the hole and stay patient and really stay in the present. I felt like I did a good job of that.

**Q. Obviously all the changes on the tour with the designated events. Next year these tournaments are going to be smaller fields. You've just pretty much taken care of that by winning here, but just wondered if this year you thought about that at all, like one of the ways to get in would have been to be in the top-50, FedEx. Did you think about that, like you needed to position yourself for next year? Do you have any thoughts on how maybe if it were next year, you might not have even been in this one?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, my goal when we learned that this was going to be the schedule, my goal was for sure the top-50 and my goal every year is to make it to the TOUR Championship. I haven't done that yet, but this year I was like, all right, well, I think a really attainable goal is definitely the top-50, which would have been my best finish thus far in a season.

Yeah, you start looking at it because I was 30-something coming into this week, so every point matters. Obviously when I'm out playing I don't think about it, but leading up to things. So yeah, I'm really happy that I'm going to be in those events because I like competing against the best players on the best golf courses. Obviously the increase in pay is nice, too.

**Q. You mentioned daydreaming about winning at times and obviously it didn't happen, but when you are standing on 18 and you've won this tournament, what does that feel like? What's going through your head at that time?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I mean, first off on the tee shot, as long I just got it in play I was like OK, we can win this thing.

Yeah, I really walked up the fairway and I tried to do as good a job as possible to stay in the present but also look around and keep my head up and look at the sight and having all those people there. You only can win your first tournament once, so I was really trying to soak it all in. My caddie, John, and I didn't talk about it until basically I got the ball on the green, then we showed a little excitement and emotion.

I'm a competitor and until the ball's in the cup, I didn't -- I really tried not to think about it, but



yeah, I'm so happy to be in this position.

**Q. In your TV interview, Wyndham, you mentioned that you wished your mom was here. I wonder if you could just describe her influence on your life and did you ever seriously consider giving up golf after her passing?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** My mom got me into golf, like she's the first one that took me to the golf course. She was not a golfer, so outside of after getting me into golf, she didn't do much as far as golf.

She was always my, kind of my rock in my life. Even in junior golf there's times when you're so mad and you feel like you should have done better or you're embarrassed with how you played, or other sports, she was always there to comfort me.

So what was your other part of your question?

**Q. Just at some point I read that you had considered giving up golf after -- was that actually a consideration?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** My mom passed away when I was 19 and I'd say when I was about 20, 21 I really contemplated quitting golf. I was at Oklahoma State and I was playing terribly. There's many times when I stormed off the golf course in qualifying or in tournaments and just drove as fast as I could, I didn't know where I was going. I just, just the pressure of golf and then not having my mom there and someone that I could call was really tough for me.

And then professionally I've had multiple moments like that where you just, you miss multiple cuts in a row or you feel like your game is good and you're not getting much out of it and you just contemplate doing it.

Max Homa has a great quote of every golfer's one shot away from thinking they can win the Masters or one shot away from quitting golf. It really is a great quote because that's the truth. I'm glad I stuck it out and am here now.

**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** Wyndham, congratulations and go enjoy your celebration.

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Thank you.

