

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**WYNDHAM CLARK**



**MODERATOR:** We'd like to welcome Wyndham Clark into the media center here today at Quail Hollow. With this being your first win that you are defending, I'm sure you have a ton of fond memories here. Can you talk a little bit about coming back here for the first time and playing?

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I mean, all I think about is all the great shots and great times that my caddie, John, and I had Saturday, Sunday and especially Sunday afterwards celebrating the win. It feels -- coming back feels -- it honestly feels like home. It's so nice, I love Charlotte, I love this golf course and I just feel really comfortable here.

**MODERATOR:** Last year at this time you were ranked 163rd in the world and today you are ranked 3rd. What has the last year been like?

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, it's crazy. I mean, in 12 months, yeah, it's crazy to think I jumped that many spots and have a few wins under my belt now.

It's honestly really humbling and fun to be in this position. I'm just really looking to continue to grow and get better. I like to think this is just the beginning, and hopefully it's the start of a lot of really good golf in the future years.

**Q. Wyndham, first of all, was last year the first 54-hole lead of your PGA TOUR career?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** No. I can list them off for you because I remember all the ones that I didn't win. Honda my rookie year I had a lead. Then let's see, I led -- I believe I led at Waste Management one time. I also had it in the Bahamas, no, Bermuda, sorry, Bermuda. And then I think in Dominican. So I've four, four leads.

**Q. Well, obviously you thought a lot about those four. What did you learn from those four that allowed you to get through it here, and then what does holding onto a lead and finally winning that Tour event mean for your confidence?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I learned all the ways not to win those times, but I learned so much. I used to get really quick and fast in pressure situations, my thinking would get fast and it would lead to poor decisions and some poor golf swings.

So I just think the more experience I had in those moments, the more comfortable I got. I think it kind of led to this event last year, you know, I had a -- jeez, I had a, I mean, maybe even like a 63-hole lead going into the Dominican last year right before this event and didn't



have a great back nine and didn't win.

Leading up to that I was in contention in Tampa, I was in contention at Waste Management, I was in contention at, gosh, somewhere else, and I just was learning what not to do. Then that taught me what to do and that was to slow down, calm my thinking. So winning here is really my big breakthrough in kind of open up the floodgates if you will. And what was the other part of your question? That's it. OK.

**Q. Wyndham, I know you were at Pinehurst earlier this week getting ready for the U.S. Open. Obviously you're defending this week and it's a Signature Event, it's a big event here, but is it tough to kind of stay focused this week knowing what you have coming up here in a month going back to Pinehurst, especially after you were just there a couple days ago?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** No, not at all. This is one of my favorite Tour events, one of my favorite golf courses. If there's anything that I before the year get excited about it's this event. So I'm really focused on this week. It's fun, it's my first chance to defend. I don't know what that's like, so it's been exciting. Hope I can go out and have a great week and play my best and maybe defend it. Yeah, no, I'm focused on this week.

**Q. Basically a year ago at this time or thereabouts you had not done it yet and now you have. (Inaudible). Obviously your confidence level has to be different, but can you pinpoint something that's changed or how you view it now compared to, say, a year and a half ago when maybe you were still searching and were unsure?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I just think I've -- I just think the more times I put myself in contention, the better I get even if I don't win. So recently coming up short in Bay Hill and at THE PLAYERS, I learned a lot. I mean, even though I had won three times prior to those two second place finishes, I still was learning. I just think the more I put myself in that situation, the better I'm going to get and learn.

And as you put yourself in those positions, you want to be in those positions more. So that's really what I look forward to every week when we tee it up on Thursday is getting yourself into contention and have a chance on the back nine. So I definitely feel more comfortable the more I'm in that situation.

**Q. I have a couple questions about your pre-round warmup. The training aid, what does that accomplish or what feels does that instill?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Which one?

**Q. The one with the bent shaft.**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, so I would say the club is meant for I think trying to create like shaft lean and to compress the ball. I don't necessarily use it for that purpose, I don't have



any issues with that. I use it to -- if you don't turn and rotate with that club, you hit kind of big draws or even hook. So what I use it as is I've got to make sure I turn my body in a pretty rotary so I'm really turning and then it goes straight. I use it really just as a feeler to get my body warmed up and really moving. I hit it, I don't know, 10 times in a warmup and then that's it, just to kind of get that feel.

**Q. And then teeing up the wedges?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Yeah, I tee up everything to start. Two purposes: One, just so it stays in the same position as I have my kind of tee drill setup and the ball on the tee, it keeps the ball in the same position. And then the real reason I do it is to keep my swing shallow. As you know, I don't have a swing coach, so I work on the swing myself. One of those things that helps to shallow me out is to have the ball on a tee, and in competition I tend to get steeper. So we try to start out really shallow and hope by the time we get later in the round I'm not too steep.

**Q. And do you hit balls with the right foot back, too?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** No. If I do, that's just how I set up, but I don't do it on purpose.

**Q. Was there another training aid that I was missing?**

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** No. That's what I was wondering just because I tee it up and use that. I don't have too many training aids. I do the same thing every day with teeing it up and using that and then I take it off the tee, take everything away and then I just hit shots.

**MODERATOR:** Do you want to take a second and Joshua over here, you got to meet him earlier. What's it like to talk with the next generation of golfers here out at tournaments?

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Well, it's exciting he's part of Team Titleist now, which is awesome. No, it's so great of meeting young kids like Joshua that are into the game because I was his age at one point and looked up to the golfers that came before me and hope I inspire young guys like Joshua. But he also inspires me playing the game of golf and being such a nice kid.

**MODERATOR:** Awesome. Thanks, everyone.

**WYNDHAM CLARK:** Thank you.

