

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 13, 2025



DENNY McCARTHY (-4)

Q. I heard you say that the misery of yesterday prepared you for today?

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, I think so. It was chillier yesterday, a little rainier, a little windier and it was out of a similar direction. So as it wasn't that much fun to be out there from 1:00 to 5:30 yesterday, I think it was good preparation for today.

Q. Do you consider yourself a good mudder?

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, I mean, yeah, I'm just -- I'm a grindy competitor so this is -- I knew it was going to be a challenge today and I came out with the attitude that I was just going to have fun and try to embrace it as much as I could.

Q. Looking at the way this course played just a few weeks ago, firm and fast, both times it was really, really difficult. As far as degree of difficulty, if you take the majors out of the mix, where does this one rank on Tour?

DENNY McCARTHY: You know, I haven't played here in four years, it's been a while since I've been here. It is very difficult, especially with the rain and the rough length. The rough's gnarly and the rain makes it even more difficult. Even though the greens are soft, it's still hard to -- they're so pitched, they put some really tough flags today, it was still really hard to get close to certain flags, especially with the wind direction.

It's a very difficult golf course. I enjoy the challenge of it. I'm not the longest of hitters, but you've got to keep it in the fairway. I didn't do that for a couple holes coming in, I got some decent breaks, I managed to same some good pars. It's a very difficult golf course. I like it a lot, it's very challenging and I'm looking forward to the next couple days.

Q. You talked about on 18, opting from what should have been a 5-wood to a 3-wood. Can you give me another example where the yardages were just off?

DENNY McCARTHY: Yeah, No. 2 was into the wind today. It's a short little hole, it played really long. It's into the wind and I think I had 140 yards to a back left hole and I was in the first cut. I was trap hooking an 8-iron basically knowing that it wasn't going to go long. Normally that's a pitching wedge with no wind. Like you said, that's one example where I hit an 8-iron, it landed in the middle of the green in the slope, it came back towards the front. Even though I had 140 yards, it's a really tricky hole location today with the wind off the left to even keep it on that tier, and then you're going to have some kind of difficult two-putt. I mean, I had a good two-putt from probably 60 feet on the front of the green.

No. 3 we played it up, elevated tee, downhill 15, it was in off the left, 140 yard hole and I tried to trap hook a 9-iron and I flew it 120 yards, came up short of the green. We got a good sense of how the ball was flying after a few holes.

Like I said, yesterday was a huge help to kind of play the pro-am yesterday in even nastier conditions, so it prepared me really well for the shots that I knew I was going to face today.

Q. Did you do anything special like heated gloves or --

DENNY McCARTHY: No. I keep a hand warmer in my back pocket. It got chilly out there a few times today. Nothing crazy. I was wearing -- I was full layers yesterday. I don't really like to play in a jacket, just I find it hard to move and swing in so today was not as cold so I was thankful I didn't have to wear a jacket today.