

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
**March 26, 2026**



**GARY WOODLAND (-6)**

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**Q. Gary, what do you feel like you did best today?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** I did it all pretty good today. I think the best thing I did was I carried the momentum over from last week. I got a lot of confidence last week. Saw some shots on the golf course I hadn't seen in a long time and transitioned -- I had my coach here, Randy Smith was here earlier in the week.

Actually made an iron change, I switched shafts. Last week -- I just haven't hit it very well this year, iron play, driver's been great. I've been tinkering a little bit. My speed is definitely back to where it's been. The last couple years it was down and it's back now. I switched back to an old iron shaft that I played forever and it tightened everything up. My misses were better today. It felt comfortable out there. That was really nice.

**Q. Is it a stiffer shaft?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** It is. It's a shaft that I played all through '18, '19, I think '15, '16, '17. I played it for a long time. Switched out of it last year just because my speed had dropped and I was trying to find something that was a little more forgiving. My speed's back and I put those babies back in and it was nice.

**Q. What specifically do you think carried over or might have found last week that was working again today?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** At the end of the day, it's confidence. I've had some good practice over the last couple months and I hadn't seen anything on the course, so it's trying to stay patient. Last week I started to see some signs on the course. Even when I got behind the 8-ball in a couple rounds early in the round last week, I fought back hard at the end. I was able to get off and running today, really just played solid. Felt good out there all day, that's a big plus.

**Q. You said your speed's back?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** Yeah.

**Q. Is there anything specific that's kind of gone into that?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** I'll credit Randy. I didn't hit it well there for about three, four years. He kind of -- I went back to him a year and a half ago, whatever it was. He pretty much called me soft, told me I was kind of guiding it, and that's not ever how I played in my whole life. He



wanted me to get back to swinging hard and aggressive, kind of playing to my strengths. It's been a process to get there, but we're starting to swing at it again like I used to, I think. Definitely comes with some confidence.

**Q. Runnerup here last year. How does that finish -- how important was that to the context of your journey and what do you like so much about playing here?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** It was nice to be in contention last year. I hadn't been in that position in a long time. But more than anything, the people here supported the heck out of me. The fans were great last year, I remember that. I put a very nice round in there on Sunday.

But the golf course sets up very well for me. Allows me to be aggressive, to play to my strengths right now. I'm looking forward to getting out there again tomorrow.

**Q. We saw your shoes that you have on today. Can you talk a little bit about those, and what it's like to wear those out there today?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** Yeah, it's special. Ceci and I been through hard times, a brain tumor. She's battled it for seven years. She designed these shoes for me and I'm wearing them with a lot of pride. We've talked, I was able to meet her a year ago. We have a lot of similar things that we're battling and I'm proud to be on her team.

**Q. And just after your powerful interview during THE PLAYERS, what kind of response have you gotten from your fellow peers out here?**

**GARY WOODLAND:** The response has been -- it's been big, and it's also been big for me because I got a lot of relief. I literally feel like I got a thousand pounds off my back that day. It was hard to do. I was crying going into the interview and I left feeling a thousand pounds lighter.

I have a battle that I'm fighting, but it's nice to not do that alone, I can tell you that. We'll take it one day at a time and continue to get better. But the Tour out here is a family and they've been amazing. The golf world's been amazing and I'm very thankful.

