

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES
March 29, 2026



GARY WOODLAND (-21)

MODERATOR: It's an honor to welcome Gary Woodland into the interview room. He is our 2026 Texas Children's Houston Open champion, his first win on the PGA TOUR since 2019.

Gary, we couldn't be happier. If we can get some comments on what was a dominating victory.

GARY WOODLAND: It felt a lot closer than five in my head, I can tell you that.

This is probably top to bottom as good as I've played maybe on Tour. Obviously I had a great week there at Pebble, but I was just in complete control this week. I'm proud of that.

I put a lot of work in. It's obviously been a struggle for me the last couple years, but I knew physically the game was as good as it's ever been. I just had to fight through some other battles that I'm battling and I was able to do that this week.

Obviously coming out with what I'm battling a couple weeks ago definitely freed me up a little bit. It took a lot off my plate. It allowed me to focus my energy where I need to and that's on me and taking care of myself so I can chase my dreams and I can -- like I said, when I said what I said and came out with it, it was like if it gives me enough energy for one better shot a round or if it gives me five more minutes that I can spend with my kids when I'm home, then it's doing that. It's helped me. I wasn't in a place to do it a long time ago, a year ago, I can tell you, but we're getting better.

MODERATOR: From having your family and your team here with you and then also to win here at Texas Children's and wearing those cleats, just talk about what that means to win at this event.

GARY WOODLAND: Yeah. Texas Children's Hospital, they're giving people hope. I'm wearing these shoes that were designed by Cece. She's battled a tough road for the last seven years and she's still battling. I'm proud -- I wore these shoes with a lot of pride and I'm proud to be on her team.

My family, I can't say enough. I've said it before, this has been hard on me, but what this has been on my family and my wife, and she's been the rock through this whole thing, I couldn't do this without her and I wouldn't be here without her.

My team, Butchy, Steiny, they've been through a lot with me the last couple years. They stood by my side. Just can't fight this battle alone and luckily I'm not fighting it alone.



Q. Gary, if I would have told you when you got done with that interview with Rex a couple weeks ago that we would be sitting here right now, what would you have told me?

GARY WOODLAND: I would be asking what you're talking about, why we're sitting here. I've known my game's trending in the right direction for a long time. I just haven't seen any results. I saw some signs last week, I really did. I don't know what I finished, 14th, I think, but I played a lot better than that. I just haven't had any confidence, but I haven't had any energy to do it, too.

It's been tough. There's been -- the start of this year, those four weeks I played, I was in a dark place. Luckily, I had a week or two off there and kind of reset a little bit. Then I decided to come out with this and kind of got some confidence last week. It's kind of just continuing that, down that road.

I'm definitely in a better place than I was a month ago.

Q. On the front nine there seemed to be three kind of big moments, the par save on 1, the birdie on 7 when Nicolai was in trouble, and the birdie on 9. What maybe was the biggest moment for you on that front nine that kind of propelled you?

GARY WOODLAND: I think the biggest moment of the day for me and all week was the tee shot on 1. I obviously played beautifully the first two days and I got off yesterday to start the round. I was quick. I haven't been in this position in a long time. I got quick and made some bad swings and didn't drive the ball well early yesterday. I settled in and figured it out coming in. But I was off. I talked to Randy last night. I knew what I was supposed to do today and I came out and got quick on the first shot.

Like I said, you never want to hit a bad shot, but hitting that shot right there settled me and I slowed everything down. I found the tempo I needed and I was in control of the golf ball all day outside of that.

I don't think you want to hit a bad shot, but I'm glad I did on that first tee shot.

Q. And you talk about Randy, and what has Randy meant to you over your whole career but specifically maybe the last 18 months?

GARY WOODLAND: Yeah, he's more than a golf coach to me. He's always been that way. Obviously I got out here with him in 2009 as a rookie. I won for the first time with him in 2011.

But when I got -- when I came back from brain surgery and I was in a tough spot, it was my wife's idea. She pulled me aside and said, I've left you alone for 16 years with your profession, I've never said a word, but you need to call Randy back.



And I needed him for more than golf. He stepped up and he's helped me get to this point right here.

Q. Gary, congrats. You mentioned on Thursday after your round you felt like you had a thousand pound weight off your back after that interview. How does that manifest itself and what does that feel like in terms of the difference in your golf game?

GARY WOODLAND: It allows me to focus my energy on me. You know, when I'm out here and I'm playing and people are talking to me and all that and I'm trying to hide the battle that I'm fighting, I was wasting a lot of energy on that.

Now that people know what I'm fighting, I'm focusing my energy on trying to slow my heart rate down, trying to slow my thoughts down. That's tough to do when I'm trying to hide stuff.

Still, my heart rate gets going, I had a battle this week. The last 10 holes on Friday, I teed off on 9 and some people behind the ropes got close to me and I got extremely hypervigilant.

I'll tell you this, if it wasn't for Tour security and my security, Zach, this week, there's no way I'm sitting here right now. I was a wreck the last 10 holes of that day. I got into scoring, Zach got close to me, Tour security was visual so I saw them so they calmed me down. I got into scoring, I bawled my eyes out, I reset and was able to come back out and take care of stuff after.

Coming out, talking and asking for help, I didn't do that last year. I didn't do that early this year. If I wouldn't ask Tour security, they wouldn't have been there for me like that. I'm extremely thankful for them.

But I'm in a fight. I'm able -- with the love and support I have around me, I have hope.

Q. And just what went into that difficult decision to arrange that interview two weeks ago?

GARY WOODLAND: I've talked to some veterans that told me you can't do this on your own, you've got to talk.

And it was just time. My therapist, my wife more than anybody keep telling me I've got to take care of myself before I can help people. That's hard, I want to help people.

I've realized after the first four weeks when I played how hard it was on me, that I had to take care of myself because I was getting off.

That interview was the first step in that.

Q. Gary, you have inspired a lot of people, seeing what your struggles are and



everything, but could you feel the fans were really behind you and cheering you on this week?

GARY WOODLAND: There's no doubt. Last year, I'll tell you, last year I literally felt like I was playing in my hometown. I felt like I was back in Topeka, Kansas. The fans were unbelievable, they were chanting my name. I hadn't seen that kind of love and support. And it carried over, this week the fans were unbelievable. I literally felt like I was playing at home.

Q. Last year you almost won this thing, just one shot. So coming in and playing so well last year, did you have an inkling that you could really pull this out this year?

GARY WOODLAND: I don't know if I had an inkling, but I had some confidence coming in. The golf course sets up very well for me, it sets up well for my eye. I don't know how many feet of putts I made today, but I rolled the ball as well as I've rolled it all year too, which is nice.

I love this golf course. Obviously I love the support I've had, and hopefully we can just play here every week. That would be nice I think, work out pretty well.

Q. Gary, you mentioned how it felt like it was closer than five shots. What was the most difficult part of like the final hour of play today?

GARY WOODLAND: To not get ahead of myself. Even when I got a seven-shot lead, trying to just slow everything down, just take a deep breath because I'm just trying to hit one shot at a time, trying to execute.

I've been out here a long time. This is my 18th year out here now and I've learned a lot. I relied today on some past experiences. I was leading -- I had a big lead in Hawaii in 2019 and Xander ended up shooting 60 or whatever he shot and he came back on the back nine with a couple eagles to beat me. I probably got ahead of myself that day.

I didn't get ahead of myself today. Even coming down that last hole, I wasn't going to let myself think about what was next until that putt went in, so I'm proud of that.

Q. You talked fondly about your team and everything, and Brennan Little, Butchy, your caddie. What has he meant to you over this whole journey and also today?

GARY WOODLAND: Everything. We've been together 10 and a half years now. We've been through a lot together. He's been by my side the whole time.

I haven't played well the last four years and it would have been pretty easy for him -- he's starting to play on his own, he qualified again for the Senior PGA -- to bounce around if he wanted to. He would have that opportunity, he's one of the best caddies out here. But he stuck by my side. The amount of confidence that gives me, and the trust, I'm very proud but I'm very happy that he's by my side.



Q. You mentioned earlier how tough everything's been on you but it's been tougher on your family, especially your wife Gaby. How so?

GARY WOODLAND: Well, from my wife's standpoint, she can tell when I'm off. She saw it Friday. When I got done, she's like. Let's get out of here. I had to go reset. I said I can finish.

But we've got three kids at home, too. She's raising them and trying to take care of me. I'm on the west coast to start the year for four weeks in a row and she knows, she can tell I was in a dark place and she's five hours away raising kids.

So she runs the ship. If she goes down, the whole ship goes down, there's no doubt about that.

I wouldn't be where I am before all this without her and I'm definitely not sitting here today without her.

Q. Gary, what led you to reach back out to Randy Smith and what was that process of reconnection like?

GARY WOODLAND: Well, my wife's the one that told me I needed more than a golf coach and to call Randy.

I talked to him at Colonial a year and a half ago I think it was. He just asked me how I was doing. I said, Randy, I'm not good. I cry all the time now. I probably started crying.

We talked. Things didn't end the way we wanted them to end, both of us, a long time ago. I'm thankful my wife said that because we're both in a better place now I would say.

He's been through a lot with Scottie. Scottie's the best player in the world by a long shot and he's winning, how many majors he's won and how many times he wins every week. So he has a lot more perspective.

And I've bounced around a bunch. I've been with a lot of great coaches as well, but what Randy does for me off the golf course is second to none. From where I've been and what I'm battling, I don't know if I could do it without him.

Q. And that final putt today, you kind of looked up and seemed to exhale. What was that feeling like in that moment?

GARY WOODLAND: Just thankful. I'm blessed to be able to chase my dreams, there's no doubt about that. I know it's hard, but life's hard, right? Everybody's battling something. I've told myself the whole time, I wasn't going to let this thing in my head win. From when I was diagnosed with this thing on my brain, the whole thing was I wasn't going to let it win.



Today was evidence of that.

MODERATOR: Gary, with the timing of this win, pretty big time of the season as well. Just talk about your next few weeks you've got.

GARY WOODLAND: I need to figure that out. Luckily, Steiny's here and we can figure that out.

Obviously your goal out here is to play in major championships. My exemption ran out a year ago. I haven't been in the other three majors from an exempt standpoint outside the U.S. Open from my win. Playing my way back in, I know this gets me in the Masters, I know it gets me in the PGA. I'm looking forward to that, I can tell you that.

MODERATOR: Gary, it doesn't take a trophy for us to be proud of you. You're an inspiration. Congratulations.

GARY WOODLAND: Thank you, guys. Appreciate you all.

