

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
July 9, 2026

DARREN CLARKE (-4)



Q. Darren, how big was that birdie on the last to finish?

DARREN CLARKE: Yeah, I went through the middle of the front nine there with chance after chance after chance and just couldn't quite get the read right, and then made a real stupid -- got too greedy on No. 7, I mishit my 7-iron, tried to chip it in and made a stupid bogey there. Obviously made up for it with a birdie on the last. It's always nice to finish with a birdie, especially out of that right-hand rough.

Q. With this golf course shooting the kind of numbers with the weather that's coming, you're in a pretty good spot. You've got to be happy.

DARREN CLARKE: Yeah, good day, Al. It was a good day. Anytime you shoot under par at Firestone is a pretty good day. I managed to shoot 4 today. Got to keep on swinging the way I am and hopefully give myself more chances.

Q. We've asked players about winning at iconic places. What would a win here, especially the last one, mean for you?

DARREN CLARKE: Yeah, Firestone needs no introduction. Firestone is to me, you know, as a non-American, Firestone is iconic. It is just one of the best American golf courses. I grew up watching everybody playing here. You know, it's just a magnificent golf course that has stood the test of time.

But I'm fortunate I won a WGC here and I had a good time here. I've always sort of enjoyed the challenge whenever I've come here because you know it's not going to be easy, it's going to be pretty tough. It's just a brilliant golf course. If you play poorly, you're going to get punished at Firestone, that's the way it is. Certainly today got off to a very good start, 4 under to start the tournament, so hopefully can keep on playing the way I have today for the next three days.

