

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
March 23, 2018



MARK CALCAVECCHIA (-5)

Q. Mark, I know you're pleased with that last shot, one off the pace and you've got to be pleased?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: I'm ecstatic. If you go back and look at my last seven years here, my very first year I had a top-10 and that's been it. So it's probably my best round I've ever had here and it was a tough day to play. The greens are just, I'm sure you've heard it from some of the other guys, lightning fast. They're pretty slopey greens, so very difficult to putt. And I didn't start off putting too well the first five or six holes but after that I putted great and I hit it pretty good so it was certainly a great start.

Q. Especially down the stretch, what was working for you the most?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: Yeah, well, I birdied five of the last eight holes. I hit a few close. The par 5, I basically two-putted 13. Made a nice 15-footer on 11. Hit it pretty close at the par 3, that's three. Then I hit it six inches at 16 and made a 30-footer at 17. So all of a sudden a couple close ones and a couple nice putts and you make four or five quick birdies and that's more or less what happened. So it was nice, it was a nice way to finish. Kind of all day, really the first five holes were playing really tough today and I was 1 over. I kind of told myself once you get to 6 you kind of run into some holes with this south wind where you can -- 6 through 15 where you can kind of get going and make some birdies and I kind of told myself that and that was more or less what happened.

Q. You broke through for a win last month. Are you still riding the wave of confidence, momentum from that?

MARK CALCAVECCHIA: No, not at all. I haven't played very well at all since then. My back's kind of bothering me again. It's my upper back now, I'm having upper back spasms, so something's got to hurt. I felt great in Boca. Actually felt great in Naples but I never play very well there. Struggled -- I wasn't feeling very well in Newport or Tucson for that matter. I felt pretty good today. It was nice to make some putts and get off to a good start. And our tournaments, especially our three-rounders, the first round is so important to get off to a good start, especially on a difficult golf course like this. From what I understand we're supposed to have a decent amount of breeze this weekend, so you don't have to go very low here to have a chance to win and 5 under's a great start.