

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 3, 2021



KIRK TRIPLETT (-9)

Q. Kirk, just tell us about your round today and what was going well for you.

KIRK TRIPLETT: Sixty-three is a miracle (Laughs.) No, I haven't shot a low score in a long time and it kind of dawned on me, I had a nice back nine, 5 under on the back nine, which is the easier nine. The front nine presents some challenges, but I hit some poor shots. I chipped in on 1 for birdie, nice up-and-down on 2, great save from 125 yards on 4 and then made a no-brainer down-the-slope putt on 6. That's what you have to do to shoot a low round and I'm thrilled to have gotten that.

Q. Did you see this coming at all?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, I've been making a lot of birdies and I've been putting reasonably well all year, but I've been throwing up these roadblocks pretty much every round making a bogey or a double. My misses have been -- when I miss a shot, it's really been a struggle for me to make a par. Sometimes it's even doubles and triples. Today, the bad swings that I made I ended up making pars and I made a couple of extra-long putts as well. Made a long putt on 3, long putt on 6 and there you have it. It doesn't seem like it's that much different even though I know it is a big difference.

Q. Your approach on 7 was tight. Were you hitting it like that all day?

KIRK TRIPLETT: I hit a lot of good shots on the first nine holes, was making nice solid contact, really felt comfortable, right, and a lot of my game has been trying to swing harder to keep up a little bit and today I was just kind of -- I was just swinging my swing and that was effective.

Q. Does this course lend you to that kind of --

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, I think it gives that you option, right, because length is not the issue here. There are some longer holes. There are some holes you'd like to give it a whack, but this course is more about placement, right, than it is like last week, we were at Benton Harbor and you've got to give it a good smack. A couple weeks ago we were at Birmingham, same type of deal. This course is more of a you've got to kind of duck and dodge and dive your way around it. Yeah, I think that led to me just okay, I know I've got a shot that I can hit it to there. I'm not trying to hit it farther than I can hit it.

Q. But does that lend to old-school where you've got to move your ball, you've got to shape it?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, you can, yeah, yeah, and sometimes -- I mean, we go to that usually when that improves your percentages of hitting a good shot, but this course also, I think lots of different players have won here, a fader, long hitter, short hitters, drawers. I don't think there's any one type of player that's done well here over the years, it's mostly about can you grab some momentum and keep it.

Q. You talk about grabbing momentum and keeping it. How do you kind of take this success into tomorrow?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Cross both fingers and go. I mean, it's what we work on all the time. You try and approach it the same way and when it gets going your way, you try not to ask too many questions and when it doesn't go your way, same thing. It's a lot harder when it doesn't go your way to kind of stick with what you've been doing. That's everybody's challenge, we'll all be trying to do that. Bottom line, 15 under, 15 to 20 under, right, that's what you're thinking every week out here on this tour. Start of the week, how do I get to 15 under, so I got a big chunk of it today.

Q. What do you like about the course, the tournament, Des Moines?

KIRK TRIPLETT: Well, I've played here every year. The very first year I played here I finished second, so I enjoy it. I think the biggest thing is the community support, right? It feels like a PGA Tour event. There's people everywhere, people are having a good time, they're watching golf and following you around. It just, some of our events are more on the corporate entertainment side and this feels more like a community event. And look at the field, I speak for all of the guys, we enjoy coming here.