

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**August 15, 2021**



**DOUG BARRON (-18)**

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**Q. Doug Barron, how does it feel?**

**DOUG BARRON:** I feel pretty good. I really want to give a shout-out to my friend Steve Flesch, he's first class. He had me by two with four to go and he didn't really hit a bad shot. He made a bogey on 16, but I mean, I don't know, he played so great all day. I didn't see any way of catching him.

I did get one opening and I took advantage of it, but I give him the biggest shout-out. He's not only a dear friend, but we compete to win, but golly, it's tough when you're playing against your friends.

**Q. What was the opening you took advantage of?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, he hit it over about 40 feet, 45 feet on 16 and I hit it in there about 12 feet and he left it outside of my putt and he missed it and I made it, so we were even on 17. I birdied 17.

And then when I hit it like this on 18, I felt kind of bad because I got a little excited and I was embarrassed actually. He had like a six-footer for par and I don't think he knew that it didn't matter, but he's my friend and I would never want to disrespect another player. But when you win out here, it's so few and far between, golly, it's almost been two and a half years and woo-hoo, it was crazy. He's a great competitor and a good friend. You just don't want to disrespect your peers.

**Q. Do you know if this will be your biggest payday? Is it bigger than when you finished third on the PGA TOUR?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, when I play, I never think about money. My wife gets to spend all that, that's good. Winning, losing, unfortunately there's only one winner every week and we don't get it very often, so when you do it, you should enjoy it. I knew when I made that putt on 18 no one could beat me. I looked at the scoreboard on 17 green and I was like, it was one on one going into 18 and I'm playing against a great friend, a great competitor. Man, I got really lucky, I tell you. I hit the best 4-iron in my life and it forced him to hit a different shot. He was going to hit a different club and I'm so glad he did. Amen.

**Q. When you were walking to 18, you uttered something like, "That was a dream right there, now I've got to go finish it."**

**DOUG BARRON:** Yeah. Well, you know, you only get a chance to win a few times when

you're leading, so I had to play like I wanted it. I couldn't play scared, so I went out and hit the best drive I can hit, the best second shot I can hit and I finished it off. So if he was going to tie me, he had to make eagle. I didn't want to -- when I won Dick's, I walked up to 18 and said, "I'm not hitting an iron with a two-shot lead, I'm hitting a driver."

Kind of today I had to go earn it, and I wanted to earn it. I mean, heck, I know Steve Flesch, he's one of the best ball-strikers who's ever walked the planet. I didn't want to give it to him. I wanted to go out and hit a great drive and a great second shot. I knew he was going to outdrive me because he hits it farther than me, so I just went and did what I had to do. I got lucky, that's what I would tell you, I got very lucky.

**Q. How do you sort of describe your story? People could say unbelievable, remarkable. How do you sort of sum up your story?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, I would tell you my story, one, we can talk about the first part. I was out of the game for seven years. I got back into it, two years before I watched nothing but Champions Tour events, I learned how to play again. I didn't need that much coaching. My friend Sean Webb helps me and he's awesome. But what I really learned, I've been off for a month, I hurt my neck so I couldn't go to the British Senior, so I got really excited to play golf again. I watched Stephen Dodd win. I'm like, I can beat some of these guys, too.

I have to give my buddy Wes Short, we were talking earlier in the week, we need to get back to Hawaii, one of us, and he won last year and I was like, you know, I'm happy for either one of us to get there and I'm glad it was me. I was pulling for him, too, obviously, but I'm so excited to take my wife to Hawaii again. The big-name players get to go to Hawaii, they've won majors, they've done all the great things. I get to go because I earned it and it's a cool deal, really cool.

**Q. Who was that that you hugged coming off the green?**

**DOUG BARRON:** That was Wes Short. He won last year. Absolutely he's one of my best friends, I love Wes. He's a champion, he's a great champion for you guys. Wes and I hang out all the time and we play practice rounds. He's awesome that he stuck around and waited on me. He's so cool.

**Q. Safe to say both of you will be back to this event?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, I'm coming back no matter what. I know Wes is, too. I mean, you couldn't -- you can't keep me out of Canada right now. I may stay here another week.

**Q. Can you talk us through that celebration? I mean, that's going to go down as like an all-timer, honestly.**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, you know, you know me, I'm kind of a passionate guy. Like yesterday when I made that eagle, I was like I wanted to get in the final group yesterday, so

what did I have to do? I had to make eagle. I thought the winner would come out of the final group being threesomes.

So today somehow I got a one-shot lead and I got -- I was in the final group. I knew what I had to do and if I made birdie, it was over, so heck, I thought it was time to celebrate. I wasn't celebrating walking up to that green because I know Steve Flesch and I thought he was going to hole that bunker shot. He has all my respect. And whatever he was mad at me, I totally apologize, but I knew it was over when I hit the putt. Man, I was ready to party, it was cool. I'm a passionate guy, sorry.

**Q. So you're going to set the Weston on fire again tonight?**

**DOUG BARRON:** No, I'm not. I would have liked another three hours of sleep. I got to go back to bed about 5:30 and I set my alarm for 7:30, hit my snooze three times and I was good to go.

**Q. You describe this as like a wrestling match. How would you describe this, like a steel cage?**

**DOUG BARRON:** I didn't hear you.

**Q. You described it earlier, your tee shot this morning, you said it was like a wrestling match?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, when y'all introduce people, it reminds me of wrestling in Memphis. I was a big wrestling fan as a kid and when you introduce people, it reminds me of a wrestling match. Obviously I got my ass pinned on the last -- on the first hole there. I hit it right in the trees. I thought it was pretty cool that I bogeyed the first hole and didn't fluster and fought my way back to at least under par on the front within shouting distance. Steve just played great. I mean, I made that eagle on 11, at least put a little pressure on him, but he eagled 13. I mean, he birdied 13 and that made it tough. Two behind's tough on this course because 15's not that tough a hole downwind. Then I didn't birdie it and then I got away with a great birdie at 15, or 16, not hitting a great shot. I like to say you only live once. My motto since I've been out here is you only get one chance, so you might as well have fun and be aggressive and I got lucky is all I can say. I was playing against a better player and I got very lucky.

**Q. When you think back like seven years ago or maybe even four years ago, is there any way you would ever think you would be a two-time winner on this tour?**

**DOUG BARRON:** Well, if you don't think it, I would have never tried it. I'm just going to say I pictured it, I did all the things I was supposed to do and then I got so lucky to do it. To win your second tournament out being 50 and not exempt was just a dream come true. I've been very fortunate, very blessed. God wants me to tell you he gets all the glory, and he does get all the glory. I don't have any other words to say besides that.

**Q. Feeling pretty good right now?**

**DOUG BARRON:** I'm ready to drink a beer now.