

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**October 28, 2021**

**NICK WATNEY (-1)**



---

**Q. (In progress) considering the conditions?**

**NICK WATNEY:** The 13th hole was really difficult, 16 was really difficult.

**Q. Can you just keep going?**

**NICK WATNEY:** Yeah, 7, 8, 9, that point out there is obviously, there's no cover, it's really exposed and it was gusting to, I mean I'm not good at that, but it felt like at least 40 miles an hour. There were a few shots that I was just like, I just want to hit this ball and I want to be able to see it when it stops. If I do that, then it's a successful shot. Yeah, tough day and I'm happy to be done, I'll say that.

**Q. How tough was that putt there on 9? You were hitting about 20 feet down the hill?**

**NICK WATNEY:** Yeah, it wasn't anything spooky, but we could see the sheets of rain coming, so it was like I wanted to hit it as fast as I could without trying to rush it. Luckily, it stopped about a foot away and I felt like I had to pay attention on that one-footer. Yeah, I'm glad to be off the course. It feels like we played more than 18 today. It was tough.

**Q. What did you hit at 13?**

**NICK WATNEY:** Thirteen, I hit a 4-iron. I think the front edge of the green was maybe like, I don't know, I can't remember exactly, 168 or something and it was short of the green with 4-iron. That was the first kind of really exposed into-the-wind shot and it was like, okay, this is serious, this wind is serious.

**Q. When you hit that bunker shot, it's like you're hitting a full bunker shot 30 yards, right?**

**NICK WATNEY:** Yeah, like you're hitting into a wall, you know? You almost feel like you can't hit it too hard, you just don't want to hit it too soft because the wind affects a chip shot or a sand shot, too. Yeah, I was very pleased with a 3 on that one.

**Q. Did you have any shots where you thought the wind was going to be harder and it died down and you hit it and thought it was going to go too long?**

**NICK WATNEY:** More on the crosswind shots. Like 15 I thought I've got to start this over the left bunker. It kind of stayed there the whole time, that was surprising. There were a few crosswind shots I thought would move more, but into-the-wind and downwind, I mean, I kind

of guessed right most of the day, I guess.

**Q. When did you take your hat off today?**

**NICK WATNEY:** I took it off a lot of times, and then it flew off once if that counts. Yeah, probably close to 10 times, I think.

**Q. They were saying the extended forecast and it was pretty much right on. When you see something like that, do you mentally prepare yourself for this kind of day?**

**NICK WATNEY:** Yes. I mean, the last Tuesday, Wednesday were blowing like this as well, so it was kind of like -- I think tomorrow from what I've seen, it's supposed to be a little bit more calm. So I was kind of like, okay, this is a day where it can get away from you. I don't think anybody's going to -- well, maybe they will, but usually you don't shoot -- even if you shoot 5 or 6 under on a day like this, obviously it's only the first day. The old cliché, you can't win it today, but you can sure shoot yourself out of.

It. Yeah, my caddie and I were talking this morning, just wanted as many birdie putts or into-the-wind chips as we can, try to keep it in front of us and we were able to do that most of the time.

**Q. Was it the conditions or did anything about the course itself surprise you? Was it pure conditions today?**

**NICK WATNEY:** Yeah, the conditions were real tough. I think the Tour did a really nice job of setting the course up to where it was playable with this much wind, you know, because there are just shots that were really scary, difficult. I thought they did a nice job with the setup of the golf course. It's just one of those days where you've really got to just buckle down and just try to keep the ball in front of you.