

**Nissan Open  
Riviera Country Club  
Pacific Palisades, CA  
February 20, 2005**

**Second-round quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH DARREN CLARKE**

DAVE LANCER: We welcome Darren Clarke, what were the conditions like out there?**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

DARREN CLARKE: Surprisingly good. The greens and fairways were good. The course has obviously withstood all the water very well. The greens being a little softer, you can afford to be a little more aggressive going at the flags which made the course possibly a little bit easier than it is. But I'm certainly pleased with my finish.

Q. Darren, was there a feeling that you wanted to be a little more aggressive today thinking that it might just be a 36-hole tournament?

DARREN CLARKE: Yes, most definitely. We were on the range and I'm sure that everybody was thinking that ten was the number to try and get passed Chad, if you could. So far, nobody has managed to do that. But that was the way that we were all thinking this morning on the range.

Q. Given the way the weather turned out yesterday afternoon, are you a little disappointed that you didn't get to play?

DARREN CLARKE: Yes. Looking out it looked perfect, but you know trying to get a course ready for a tournament, for a professional tournament, is not always that easy. And with the amount of rain that we did have, it wasn't very tough to get the bunkers clear, to get everything clear, to make it as good as shape as it was this morning.

So the PGA Tour did a fantastic job on that, and made the call. If they say the course is not fit for us to go play, that's what it is. It's certainly tough to be out walking about and seeing blue skies and stuff and not being able to play.

Q. I'm seems like you are here for La Costa and this tournament you probably think San Diego and Los Angeles probably have the worst weather in America?

DARREN CLARKE: I have been in a lot worse weather than this at home. This is okay. It's tough but it's the same for everybody. We are getting mud balls out there, but thankfully we have clean and place and the course is still presenting a pretty tough challenge, as you can see from the scores. There is nobody rally shooting and low numbers.

Q. Can you remember playing in any kind of events that's being this drawn out?

DARREN CLARKE: I think we played one of the tournaments, The Dunhill Tournament in Europe a couple of years ago, Carnoustie. You can get some fire weather up there in October. We did have that time as well. I don't know if we've ever managed to play and finish the second round at whatever time it is now on a Sunday, lunch time. I have had a few other occasions where it has been pretty bad weather.

Q. Darren, on Friday even though it was raining, a lot of the guys were saying the greens were still fast, is that the case today or have they slowed down?

DARREN CLARKE: Probably sort of slowed down a little bit. But it was still the same scenario, if you short-sided yourself and missed the flag in the wrong place, you couldn't get anywhere near it, so it hasn't slowed down enough to make that it easy unfortunately for us.

Q. Talk a little bit about your game this week. What have you been doing well, is there anything you would like to improve on?

DARREN CLARKE: Probably as I said after I come in the first round, it was on Thursday -- it was Thursday, yes, it was Thursday, my short game has been pretty good this week. That has still be pretty sharp. I'm gradually starting to threaten (phn) the club face a little more than I have been. The game is a little bit easier when it comes off the middle of the club as opposed to other parts of it. I managed to do that slowly.

Q. Darren, if you do comeback on Monday, how much of an inconvenience or problem as far as it relates to Match Play?

DARREN CLARKE: Well, we have to been La Costa so many times before if it's wet here it's going to be very wet at La Costa. So the fact that we played the course so many times before, we know what La Costa is going to be like. We know they don't really change it up that much. So one practice round really wouldn't bother me, going to La Costa, I hope. But having played the course before it should be fine.

Q. Is your game suited to wet conditions, long carry out?

DARREN CLARKE: Probably because I just grown up playing in wet, windy and cold and horrible conditions. Like anybody else I'd much prefer to play in a T-shirt, Jeff, but if we put the waterproofs on, it doesn't really bother me that much.

DAVE LANCER: Thank you.

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