

Cognizant Classic

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, USA

PGA National Champion Course

David Ford

Quick Quotes

Q. Pretty crazy round today, pretty crazy scorecard. Can you talk about your round a little bit?

DAVID FORD: Yeah, it was insane. I felt like I was in control of my ball on the first three or four holes. Was probably 2-under through three. Then just made a bunch of mistakes from 13 to 17, and it cost me about seven shots. Four of those on hole 17.

But yeah, I feel like I actually played pretty well. I controlled my ball well all day really. Hit it great off the tee, just a few bad club selections and a few bad shots, and ended up 5-over through seven after being 2-under through three, but brought it back pretty nicely. Holed out on three holes in a row, and it was a wild round.

Q. Those three hole-outs, did any of those stand out? Was one of those more difficult than the other two?

DAVID FORD: Yeah, the first one was 142 yards on hole 2. That's usually a pretty hard hole. We had it straight downwind, so I hit 50-degree in today. Was fortunate to get the wind pumping down. That one probably stands out as getting me going on the right track really. I birdied 18 and then made the turn, and good par save on 1 and then holed out on that hole, hole 2, so was only 2-over through 11, and then had a 35-, 40-yard chip on 3, a par-5 for eagle. Was kind of over the ball like, I'll probably make this. Based on how the last few holes have gone, I'm probably due to make one. It was just silly when it went in.

The next hole, hole 4, probably hit one of the worst 50-degrees result-wise that I've ever hit. I needed to hit it about 130 yards and it went about 105. I thought I hit a good shot, too, so I don't really know what happened. But was plugged in a bunker and then was fortunate to be on the upslope on the next bunker shot and made that one.

I missed the green about 40 yards right on hole 5 because I didn't want to go in the water after hole 17 happened to me. I thought I was going to make it on hole 5. Three hole-outs in a row, I kind of knew no different. I was fortunate to, I think, get that one up-and-down.



Q. You just said the word "silly." For a round like that, the ups and the downs, what's going on in your head when you have a hole like 17 and then that stretch?

DAVID FORD: Yeah, it was silly. As silly as it was, it was kind of sad, to be 5-over through 7. The thought that I had after 17, my eighth hole, was if I want to win the golf tournament, then four shots on one hole is not going to kill me. To have a good finish in a tournament, you need to play better than just having four bad shots on a hole.

My brain was instantly going towards one bad hole can't do too much damage to me if I play great the rest of the way coming in, and if my game is good enough to win, then it should be no problem to have a good finish, even with a quad.

It's an uphill battle, but if I play the way I know I can, then I think I can at least finish up near the top of the leaderboard. We're going to have to make some putts, though.

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