

# Travelers Championship

Thursday, August 4, 2016

## Ben Martin

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Ben, great finish to the round; so-so start on the front nine, but really turned on the jets there on the back.**

BEN MARTIN: Yeah, I got off -- on the front nine I wasn't really expecting to shoot 65, but finally rolled one in on No. 9, probably 12, 15 feet.

Once that one got in, saw a birdie go in, started reeling them off. 30 in the back nine, so it was great start to the time tournament.

**Q. It's certainly out there. There have been three 28s in the history of the tournament, and 30 is fantastic, especially the birdie, birdie, birdie finish.**

BEN MARTIN: Yeah, you know, I've been driving it well all day, but then I drove it in the water on 15 there, which is really a birdie hole.

So walked way there with a 5, but backed it up with a 2-3-3 finish. So really happy with the way I finished it off. One round down, three more to go. Certainly feel like if I can stay consistent and do the same things I did today, then see how it pans out.

**Q. Got some time before the second round tomorrow, which you'll start on the back nine. Are you anxious to get that started the way you just finished?**

BEN MARTIN: Oh, yeah. Absolutely. I wish I could go play another 18 right now. Just rolled in three birdies on the last three holes.

Yeah, do a little practicing this afternoon and relax this evening and come out and hopefully do it again tomorrow.

**Q. Strong finish. Birdies at 16, 17, and 18; 5-under par 65. Are you pleased?**

BEN MARTIN: Absolutely. Closed out the back nine shooting 5-under. The way it started, made a lot of pars and then one bogey in the first 8 holes, but once I got that birdie going on 9 and made another one on 10 and to close it off with three more, you got to love that.

**Q. 14 of 18 greens in regulation today. Irons were working, too.**

BEN MARTIN: Yeah, never hit it really close, but I think I was really consistent. I gave myself a lot of 10- to 15-footers, and fortunately I was rolling those in today.



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Seems like I am trending in the right direction throughout the year. Haven't had the season that I wanted to, but couple of events here left before the playoffs.

**Q. What was it like at the time you were playing today? The golf course, how receptive was it?**

BEN MARTIN: There was barely a breath of wind out there today. The greens were kind of soft. I think the course was really playing about as easy as it's going to play. The rough is up a little bit, but I think I drove in in the fairway most of the day.

Couldn't ask for better scoring conditions than this morning.

**Q. Is it a fun course for you? Does it set up well for your eye?**

BEN MARTIN: It is. I haven't been here since 2011. Just the way it worked out on the schedule this year. I'm happy to be back. I like the course. I think it is always fun to have a drivable par-4 coming down the stretch and two reachable par-5s.

If you can take advantage of those three holes and couple more wedges, you know, shoot 4- or 5-under every day and give yourself a chance to win.

**Q. Don't be cross with me. You brought up to the drivable par-4 at 15.**

BEN MARTIN: Yeah.

**Q. It's been redesigned since the you were here in 2011 as you well know. That left front hole location, did you go for it today?**

BEN MARTIN: I did. I drove it right in the water and made bogey.

Yeah, still 280 to the front, so I feel like if you get around the green you give yourself the best chance to make a bogey.

**Q. So you mentioned it took a while to get kick started with the birdie on 9. Good putt? Good approach? What kept you going?**

BEN MARTIN: It was a good approach. I drove it in the right bunker so didn't set myself up off the tee. Hit a good 9-iron in there about 12, 15 feet. Finally got one to go in.

I really didn't have a whole lot of good looks early in the round, but finally hit one decently close, got it to go in, and just that kind of kick started the whole day.

**Q. When you have conditions like today do you basically run to your (indiscernible).**

BEN MARTIN: Yeah, you know, it's about as easy as it's going to play. Just a breath of wind and the greens were soft, so the scoring conditions were as good as you can ask for.

**Q. How about the final three holes? Take us through that, how good it feels to walk off after that.**

BEN MARTIN: Yeah, I rolled in good putts on 9 and 10 and then made a good one on 12, so it was just one of those days where you're seeing your lines, you're hitting your lines.

So 16, 17, and 18, I think I had about 15 feet on every hole, and I just was thinking, All right, just roll it on the line I see. That's all I can do.

Walked them all in felt like.

**Q. Since you were here last the course has changed some. From what you remember back in '11 I think was your last time here and today, what they've done, especially with the bunkers, did that make it tricky? Any more difficult? Did it change the course at all?**

BEN MARTIN: Yeah, I don't remember the subtleties of the bunkering and everything enough from five years ago to really tell a difference.

For me coming back, it was more just kind of remembering the old layout. I didn't have my old yardage book or anything. In some aspects I was kind of like playing the course for the first time, because I don't really remember a whole lot of it.