

# Travelers Championship

Thursday, June 22, 2017

## Graham DeLaet

### Quick Quotes

**Q. I know that wasn't the finish obviously you wanted but four birdies and an eagle in the first round, great playing. How did you get it done?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: Yeah, thanks. I started off, hit it to a foot on the first hole and made a nice 15-footer on 11, which is our second hole. I felt like I had birdie chances kind of all the way through the back nine, made seven pars in a row and I played nicely on the front nine here. It is always kind of bittersweet to end with a bogey but it was a good day. I played nicely.

**Q. Take us through the eagle at 6?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: I got a little bit fortunate, my tee shot way right and I took a drop from a sprinkler and I dropped on a cart path and took relief from the cart path and was able to get a little bit better angle. I don't know if I would have been able to hit a high draw hybrid up around the tree, and I didn't realize it, I thought I was just short of the green and Joel, he's got better eyes than me. He's like, "You've got about ten feet." I think it was even closer than that. Nice putt there.

**Q. You've had some top five finishes; relying on that information today in the first round?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: This is one of my favorite tournaments of the year. I love this golf course. It's one of those things, just fits your eye. Only reason I missed it last year was I wanted to be at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics. This is one on my schedule every year I love to come to and feel like I've had good success and I've been knocking on the door a few times, so hopefully this is the year.

**Q. Walk us through what happened at 6?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: I got a little bit fortunate. Hit my tee shot way right and took a drop in the sprinkler, got a little bit more relief from the cart path and had a bit of an angle. Hit a high draw hybrid, thought I was short of the green but ended up being eight feet. That was a nice break I got because I thought would I have had to lay up.

**Q. You started birdie, birdie, put together a 65. What went into the round today?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: I played nicely. Felt like I had chances all the way around. It's all a little disappointing ending the day with a bogey especially when you have a nice clean card and playing well. 5-under par every day on the PGA TOUR, you'll be in good shape. I'm pretty happy with that still.



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**Q. A lot of players like to play here. What about you?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: Yeah, it's fun. I was just telling those guys, this is one of my favorite courses of the year. I feel like especially the back nine, there's so many birdies to be had and eagle chances kind of thing, but if you're a little bit off, it can make you look a little bit silly. So it's a fun golf course to play. There's a lot of action, especially with 15 coming down the stretch there, you can make a two there or a six there pretty easily. It's just a course that's always sort of fit my eye and I've had some decent results here.

**Q. We missed you last year here because you were representing Canada at the Olympics, but great way to welcome you back to Hartford today.**

GRAHAM DeLAET: Yeah, thanks. This has always been one of my favorite events of the year. Got off to a good start obviously today but got a long ways to go. Was happy with how I played.

**Q. Talk about your round and what went well for you today. I know maybe you want to forget 9 but in terms of how things went?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: I played well. Just played solid tee-to-green. I made a few nice putts. I had a chip-in on 4 and one of those days, it's never fun to bogey your last hole when you've got a clean card and you feel like you're playing well. But 5-under par is a great round out here and I'll take it.

**Q. What is it about the course?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: It's just a course I really like. It fits my eye well. Everyone kind of has those courses that they just love to go to every year and this is one of them for me.

**Q. Can you talk about the eagle on 6?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: Yeah, I got a little bit fortunate. I took a drop, I was standing on a sprinkler head and was semi blocked out and took a drop on the cart path and got not much of a different, maybe a couple feet different angle, but it was enough to be able to hit a high drop around the corner. I couldn't see it from back where we were but it ended up being six, seven, eight feet, something like that. That was a nice surprise and a little bit fortunate.

**Q. What was the scoring area, greens or fairways?**

GRAHAM DeLAET: I think it's a little bit of everything. Obviously to shoot under par, you've got to make some putts. But I hit one in there real close on the first hole, about a foot, and you know, when you can hit a hybrid from 230 or whatever it was in there close, even a 2-putt birdie would have worked there but obviously it was nice to make the putt. Felt like I was pretty solid all the way around tee-to-green today.

**Q. Usually there's a difference in scoring in the afternoon.**

GRAHAM DeLAET: Yeah, there's not much for wind. Might be a one-club or half-club wind. We didn't have much all day until maybe the back nine. It's a nice day. The warmer it is, the further the ball flies and the rough was a little bit damp this morning which makes it a little bit tougher. Generally the scoring is a little bit better in the morning but we'll see what happens. I don't expect to be leading by the end of the day but I know I'll be in good shape.