

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JOEL EDWARDS
Thursday, June 27, 2013

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay, Joel, first in with 67 and I didn't know at 8:00 that you were going to play at all so I know you're probably glad to get in this round.

JOEL EDWARDS: Absolutely.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Take us through your day and tell us how it was.

JOEL EDWARDS: Hole by hole or just in general?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just general and then --

JOEL EDWARDS: I hit the ball better than I have pretty much I would say in the last three months anyway. That has a tendency to help, especially when you're on a golf course that demands it. So if you're not hitting it well here, you're going to pay because the rough is so severe and adding the water to it just makes it that much worse. And every fairway is pretty much under water and even when you're playing it up, your ball is squished every time, so it kind of puts thoughts in your head like I don't want to chunk this. That's the truth. No one else will say that, but I will.

It was a nice day. I mean, it was great for me. I had a couple mishaps. Missed a little one on 16, I was shocked, I don't know if it hit a footprint or what, but it wasn't two feet and I missed it and that happens. I made a good 15-footer, 18-footer on 17 for birdie, and you birdie 17, you just run to the 18th tee. So other than that, I hit it really close two or three times, gimme actually, my birdies were pretty much gimme all day.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Do you want to take us through? You parred the first six holes and then birdied 7.

JOEL EDWARDS: I hit it about three feet on 7 and made it.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Wedge?

JOEL EDWARDS: Wedge, I hit a chip shot basically. I bogeyed 8 and then I hit, where is 9? I hit gimme with a 6-iron on 9. Then I hit it four or five feet on 10 and made that.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: What'd you hit?

JOEL EDWARDS: 7-iron in there on 10, driver, 7-iron. And then 12, I hit a driver and a sand wedge about a foot. From then on I hit it pretty close but not close enough. You want to hit it close, easier on your heart rate.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Is there anything you do when the conditions are this wet as far as ball striking?

JOEL EDWARDS: No. You know, you just try to take it -- I don't really know how to explain it, but you want your swing a little bit more shallow if you can. The guys that are pickers, if you know what I mean by that, not divot takers, are probably going to play pretty good though. Although I'm a divot taker. I'm not a gouger, but at times I gouge it. The more shallow your swing is, you're probably more apt to play well in these conditions.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Before we go to questions, Joel, maybe sort of capsulize your year at this point in the season.

JOEL EDWARDS: Well, I've actually, I played the last five or six and before that I really didn't play that much. I tried to but I couldn't get in in qualifying and things like that. I had a Top 10 in Des Moines about three weeks ago and I played well at the PGA before that, and the last two weeks I really kind of stunk up the place, the last two courses I played at, I finished well beyond -- never mind, I played terribly. Hopefully this is turning it around.

Q. How much longer is the course playing because of the rain, and does it make it more difficult if the conditions were the opposite and it was real dry?

JOEL EDWARDS: Last year it was real dry and ran everywhere. Well, I think that when it's playing hard and fast, it's hard to hold some of the fairways, but when it's playing like this, the ball's pretty much going to plug when it hits. To answer your question, it's playing a lot longer, a great deal longer because the ball is not rolling anywhere. I hit a 3-iron on 17 that backed up and trust me, I don't do that. Well, there's a few that can.

Q. (Inaudible)

JOEL EDWARDS: Lift clean and place, yeah.

Q. I'm sure every player does it differently, but when you have a few-hour delay and you kind of think you're going to get out there and then they push it back again, what do you do to not psych yourself out?

JOEL EDWARDS: I warmed up three times today, so I was here since 6:00 this morning. You warm up and you kind of have a feeling that you might not play but you keep warming up. We got to the tee and then they called it, and then we went back out and they called it again. Then third time was a charm. You do it all the time, it's not that big a deal. It drives you nuts, but there's nothing you can do about the weather and they're trying to make it fair for everybody and also trying to make it safe.

You know, it's not that -- it is a pain, but it's a pain for everybody.

Q. Joel, nice playing.

JOEL EDWARDS: Thank you.

Q. A lot of 1-under, 2-under, 3-unders. Last we looked there was a couple of 4s. A lot of under par but nobody like real deep. Is that because of the conditions, the wetness of the golf course kind of bunching everything up?

JOEL EDWARDS: Someone's going to get hot out there, I can tell you that right now because the greens are so soft and like I said, I backed up a 3-iron, so if I'm backing up a 3-iron, then they're really soft. The only thing you've got to watch is spin. Some of these short holes, they're going to really be spinning, you've really got to watch that. It's going to make it difficult because of the spin rate. Everybody's playing it up so if they're in the fairway and they've got sand wedge in their hand, trust me, they're throwing it behind the hole to spin it back.

Q. Given the conditions, is there a part of the golf course that becomes very important to play well on or get through because of the rain and the softness?

JOEL EDWARDS: No. Yeah, 1 through 18. I'm not being a smart aleck, I don't look at -- I've never looked at it that way. I mean, there's no real gimme holes. There's just not any out here, there's not, because of the rough. Even though you hit a driver down there and have a wedge in your hand out of the rough, I mean, it's so wet and wiry in there that it can just turn the club over real fast, and you're going to see some shots like that. I saw a guy today hit one backwards. I mean, he wasn't trying to, but it was so wet on the lip of a bunker. It hit the bunker and it came back. I'm glad it wasn't me.

Q. Joel, you mentioned how poorly you played the last couple weeks. I'm just curious, did you work on anything earlier in the week or did you just chalk it up to a bump in the road and just kind of go back to work as usual?

JOEL EDWARDS: No, I'm kind of a worrywart, so I work really hard and try something not new but I just try to go back to my notes of my history of what makes me swing well and nothing really. I really don't know how to explain it but it was there today. The last few weeks I've been pushing everything and I'm starting to get a little draw back. It's always nice for me to be able to draw it. Sometimes I overdraw it, but I'd rather overdraw it than push it, that's just me.

Q. To kind of go along with his question, you're in a good position now but what kind of score will it take to win this tournament do you think?

JOEL EDWARDS: Man, I have no idea. As soft as it is, you never know. I mean,

just because we're older, somebody will light it up, I'm telling you. Someone will light it up. You watch, someone will light it up a lot because it's so soft, that's what I'm saying.

Q. What part of your game was, I guess, the biggest challenge for you today because of the conditions out there?

JOEL EDWARDS: Putting was tough because the greens get a little choppy and bumpy, but luckily I hit it pretty close and didn't have to -- I three-putted 16 but that was -- I don't know, it could have been me, I don't know. I didn't see it, but I think this guy's got it on film. I really don't want to see it. I would say it's going to be tough because when the greens are this soft and there's 80 players on it or 81 players on it on split tees, someone's already played the hole. Unless you're the first out, someone's already played every hole so every hole's going to be marked up and there's going to be little indentations everywhere as soft as they are. If they're hard, they don't do that, but if they're soft, three- and four-footers become really difficult on poa annua greens anyway, but when they get little indentations on it, you're going to see some balls hop and you might hear some words once in a while.

Q. Generally speaking on a fairway shot, how many clubs longer were you?

JOEL EDWARDS: You mean like how much was I playing more?

Q. Yeah.

JOEL EDWARDS: It was a full club all day.

Q. Four clubs?

JOEL EDWARDS: No, a full club. For me it was a full club all day. And the humidity has a lot to do with that, too.

Q. Joel, could you elaborate on the shot that went backwards?

JOEL EDWARDS: No, I don't want to. He's a good guy, I don't want to talk about it. He was in the bunker on 1 and tried to hit it out and he was up under the lip and tried to hit it out and it just boom, backwards just because the lie was so bad. He had a sand wedge in his hand, too, so it wasn't like it was a 4-iron, so it shows you how hard it is. If you miss a shot on the wrong course on this golf course, on any golf course really but on this one particularly, you're going to pay.

Q. Is the rough so severe in places if you get in it --

JOEL EDWARDS: You won't have to chip out, but you're not going to be able to go for every green, there's just no way. If you're in the rough and -- because it's so wiry

and thick and wet, there's just, you know, unless you get a really lucky lie because it's really deep and it's really hard to get the ball in the air. You can hit a flat shot, but you can't get -- at least I can't. Some of the guys can, but I can't.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Joel, thank you very much. Good luck tomorrow.