

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JOHN HUSTON
Thursday, June 27, 2013



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay, John, you go out in 35 and come home in 30 with two birdies and an eagle there at 7 and right now you're tied for the lead with Russ Cochran. A few thoughts about your round today. I know it was wet.

JOHN HUSTON: Yeah, it was definitely wet. Obviously that helps scoring, but the 18th holes I really didn't make anything and then all of a sudden the last 10 holes I made a bunch of putts so I think that kind of turned the round around.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Do you just want to sort of take us through your day? Joel Edwards was in here, he warmed up three times.

JOHN HUSTON: Fortunately, I was late enough where we were able to stay at the hotel pretty much until the last delay. 13, I hit a poor drive and was lucky that it was in the fairway and still missed the green and chipped it by about 10 feet and missed that putt. 18, I hit a 3-wood just short of the green and chipped it up four feet and made it. No. 1, I hit a pitching wedge about four feet. No. 2, I hit a 4-iron about 30 feet and two-putted. No. 3, I hit it in the bunker and didn't get up and down. No. 5, I hit a pitching wedge about 12 feet. No. 6, I hit a 7-iron about four feet, made that. And then No. 7, I hit a driver on the back of the green probably about 25 feet, made that one.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: You haven't played much really since Mississippi in March.

JOHN HUSTON: I've had a really bad back. Actually, I was okay until the Atlanta tournament and I went out to warm up for the Atlanta tournament and that was the first time my back really went out on me. I've battled with it. I thought I was better when I went to St. Louis, but I only was able to play nine holes there. But it's better. Each day I just try to get through the next day.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: I noticed your appearance here last year you didn't play very well.

JOHN HUSTON: No, I didn't.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: What was the difference today?

JOHN HUSTON: I drove it terrible last year. I think the course played totally different last year. If I recall, it played really hard and fast. Yeah, I remember I didn't play very well.

Q. Have you had back problems before and did you find out is it more

muscular or structural or both?

JOHN HUSTON: It's a little bit of both, but yeah, I've had normal back stuff for probably 20 years but never anything really serious. This is probably the worst it's been where it was -- usually in the past if I had back problems, three or four days I'm back ready to go, but this one's been a little bit more difficult.

Q. You had your share of injuries and disruptions in your career. Does it ever get easier to come back? Is it ever to the point where you know how to do it better?

JOHN HUSTON: Not really, just, you know, for whatever reason it seems like I don't heal as fast. I used to. It wouldn't matter what it was, I could come back from it pretty quick. Any more it's just really nagging and stays with you, it never really goes away. Today I felt pretty good. Yesterday was not good, I was really lucky that we only played nine holes yesterday. I felt better this morning.

Q. How much does a late start like today get you out of synch or in this case get you in synch having the four- or five-hour delay there was?

JOHN HUSTON: I think we were fortunate being a little bit later, our delay was only a couple hours. The guys that, I'm sure they came out here, the first groups came out for their tee time and then had to stay here for five or six hours. I think our tee time was pretty much a blessing because we just stayed around and were able to stay at the hotel until it was time to come out.

Q. John, when you're rehabbing the back injury, did you have to do some new things? Did you incorporate new stretching to kind of get you loose or kind of take us through that process in terms of getting better?

JOHN HUSTON: Well, I've been battling a little bit. Gary Hallberg finally told me to go see Tom Morris, he's worked with Fred and a lot of other guys. We've been spending a good half the year in Atlanta now and he's close to there, so I went up there and he gave me some new stretches and stuff and helped me out. It's feeling better. It's still not perfect, but it is a lot better.

Q. John, you mentioned the course was playing totally different. Are there a couple holes in particular that you remember last year to this year that might be totally different, at least today?

JOHN HUSTON: Yeah, I think what was 10 last year is 13 this year, certainly the softness helps to be able to hit that fairway because it slopes in the opposite, doglegs to the right and slopes left. And just several holes like that where it just makes the fairway that much bigger, makes the green that much bigger. Some of the pins will be hard to get close to when they're up on the high points because the ball will spin

back away, but it will make the greens play larger.

Q. I'm jumping in late here, I apologize. Can you describe the rough, and obviously you must not have been in there much today, but how penalizing it is?

JOHN HUSTON: Yeah, the rough with rain, even if you have what looks like a decent lie, it's hard to get it to go out of that. I had a couple of holes where it looked like I had a decent lie but I still couldn't get it anywhere near getting to the green.

Q. You've always been a guy who had a reputation, you've been a guy who's not afraid to go low, you've shot some really low scores, you've made eagles, you made one today I see, as I recall you made one at Augusta on 18. Is that a mentality, where does that come from?

JOHN HUSTON: I don't know. Yeah, it's just something I think naturally you're either born that way or not. I feel like whenever you do have the momentum, I think you've got to take advantage of it because it can turn around and go the other way just as fast. The more birdies you can get on Thursday and Friday, the bigger cushion you have on the last couple of days, so I certainly don't like to try to protect any round, try to keep it moving forward.

Q. That eagle at Augusta, was it late on Thursday or Friday?

JOHN HUSTON: Thursday, I think we were actually the last group out there that year.

Q. You had some interesting things happen in your career in some of the your victories. How much does a five-hour rain delay and any of the things you went through today compare?

JOHN HUSTON: My biggest worry in a long rain delay now is that we're not going to finish 18 holes and we're going to have to play 27 the next day. I think coming back from this back injury, the walking has been -- last week walking was as much as anything because I had been playing at home and riding in a cart and it really hadn't hurt me after the round, but last week, the last few holes and after the round my back was really sore.

Q. (Inaudible)

JOHN HUSTON: Yeah, yeah, you know, you're sloshing the whole way. But it felt better today, I didn't get tired, back didn't get tired at the end, so hopefully it's moving in the right direction.

Q. (Inaudible)

JOHN HUSTON: Yeah, in a long time because there was one hole, maybe 14 or something, that has a pretty flat fairway that I was hitting the fairway. If I would have taken relief, my only place that I could have gone would have been in the rough behind the tree, so I basically hit it out of what would have been pretty much casual water.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: John, thanks very much. Good luck this week.

JOHN HUSTON: Thanks.