

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JOHN RIEGGER
Saturday, August 24, 2013

PHIL STAMBAUGH: 64, today, some good playing out there. Right now you've got a two shot lead, but some thoughts on the round today. Your fifth start on the Champions Tour and 64, your low round out here.

JOHN RIEGGER: Yeah, it was a great day all in all. I basically played the same way I played yesterday, I got off to a better start today and just kind of let the momentum build and let the golf course come to me.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Do you want to take us through the round?

JOHN RIEGGER: First hole, hit a drive down there in the fairway and hit a 4-iron just short of the green, tried to run it up and it stayed short, chipped it on about four feet, I don't know, made that. 2nd hole, I was really between clubs and my caddie talked me into hitting a hard sand wedge from 120 yards and I hit a foot so I got kind of lucky right there. Where else did I make birdie? 7, I got unlucky, I drove it through the fairway and caught a really bad lie in the rough and actually had a pretty good shot just to get it on the front part of the green and made probably the toughest putt I made all day, it probably broke about four feet and went right in the middle.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: How far was that?

JOHN RIEGGER: Probably 30 feet. 8th hole I hit a drive way down there and I could have knocked it on but where the hole location was today, it was really enticing and I laid it up, chipped it out across the green and made about an eight-footer there for birdie.

10, I hit a 2-iron off the tee and I just had a perfect number and hit a pitching wedge in there from about 128 yards I think is what I had and I hit it about four feet there and made that.

I three-putted the 11th hole from about, I was just off the green so it wasn't officially a three-putt, but missed about a five-footer for par there. And then did I birdie 12? Yeah, 12 I hit probably the first solid drive I hit all day and I had a hundred yards to that pin and hit a 60-degree wedge about a foot and a half there.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: The eagle at 15?

JOHN RIEGGER: 15, I hit an okay drive and was kind of between a 3 and a 4 and decided to hit the 4 because short was better than long and I hit a good shot and it came up about 15 yards short of the green. It wasn't anything fancy, it was just a

straightforward pitch and it landed just on the green and it rolled in just like a putt, so it wasn't like it was going hard or anything, it was going to be maybe six inches by the hole. And then 16 I hit 2-iron off the tee and I had a perfect number there, I had 142 yards to the hole and hit a 9-iron, hit it four feet right behind the hole and made that.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: All in all, 64, just some thoughts of your fifth event on the Champions Tour, what's it been like and your impressions of Snoqualmie.

JOHN RIEGGER: Well, prior to coming here all the players were telling me you're going to love that golf course, it's perfect for you because I'm one of the longer guys out here, and so obviously the par 5s I can take advantage of my length and several holes I'm not even hitting driver, just making sure I'm keeping the ball in play. As far as my fifth event, you know, these guys have been beating up on me for 30 years, so we've still got one more day to go and there's a lot of great players out here, so there's a lot of guys that are capable of going out and shooting 63 and 4 on this golf course, so I've got to keep controlling what I do and I can't control what anyone else is doing.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Did it take you some time to adjust to the three-round format versus four rounds you've been playing?

JOHN RIEGGER: No, not really. My last full year on the regular TOUR was 2008, so I played full time in '09 and '10 on the Web.com Tour. If you looked at the scores on that Tour, you've got to shoot 6-under to actually make the cut, so that Tour actually helped me prepare more for out here than it probably would from the regular TOUR just because you have to go low and keep going low because there's a lot of young players, so a lot of that has helped me.

Q. You have a three-shot lead (inaudible). Will you be pretty nervous tomorrow with the lead?

JOHN RIEGGER: No, my last win I won in 2010 on the Web.com Tour and I want to say I won by five or six shots, I shot 20-under. We got rained out the last day but I had a five or six shot lead, I was 20-under par after three rounds and it was on a TPC golf course that played very similar to this golf course. You know, I hope I'm a little bit nervous because if I'm nervous, then that means I'm paying got.

Q. If you do hold on tomorrow, what would that mean to you? Again, these are guys that, as you say, have been beating up on you for 30 some years. If you do hold on, what would that mean?

JOHN RIEGGER: It would mean a lot. It means my wife is going to be happy, my kids are going to be happy. I know I'll have a -- I had to go through the qualifying tournament this past year to be playing out here, so that would give me a little bit

more stability and know that I'm going to be playing in tournaments because we have a reshuffle coming up in a couple more events and as it stands, it's because I didn't turn 50 until June, I'm not in those last five events. So I can kind of make my own destiny so to speak tomorrow, so it would be great.

Q. Referring to the Web.com story, what were your feelings, were you anxious to get here, did you feel you were prepared well going into the Champions Tour?

JOHN RIEGGER: Well, I mean, personally, yeah, I thought that I could come out here and do well. A couple of my buddies that I grew up with, Russ Cochran and Kenny Perry, they've had a lot of success out here and I kind of know how their games are and kind of how my game is, just kind of was keeping an eye on that. Russ has been a great friend over the last three or four years, him playing out here, trying to prepare me mentally how things go on out here, how the golf courses play, same thing as the Web.com Tour. Guys, they start going low, they don't stop, they keep going, and that's understandable because you're talking about some of the greatest players that played the PGA TOUR.

Q. Phil was saying on the first Web.com Tour victory you had the lead in the final round, you obviously kept it. Can you draw upon that experience of being the final round leader?

JOHN RIEGGER: Well, that was in 2007. I lost my card in '06 and I had status on the regular TOUR but it wasn't that good, so I chose to play full time on, back then it was the Nationwide and try to get back to the PGA TOUR and I did. It was kind of funny because the guys that I was playing against in '07 and then in '09 and '10, I played with Jason Day in the last round there. At the time I was 45 years old and I've been able to hold my own against those kids, not on a week-to-week basis but certain tournaments, certain golf courses where driving is a premium, where you've got it drive it in the fairway. I'm still fairly long, even out on that TOUR. I played a few tournaments early in the year and I didn't play with anybody on that Tour that hit it by me, so I can hold my own as far as getting it out there and I normally drive the ball fairly straight, too, so it helps a lot, especially on this TOUR.

(Inaudible.)

Q. Were you aware of the scoreboard at that point?

JOHN RIEGGER: I was not, no. I don't look at it. If I just go out there and play the way I'm capable of playing, things will take care of themselves. It's not going to do anyone any good to worry about what someone else is doing.

Q. (Inaudible)

JOHN RIEGGER: Oh, yeah, I had it going for the time. At the time I was 5-under and I went to 7-under, so obviously unless somebody's shooting 8-or 9-under par, I'm probably in pretty good position.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Anything else? Good luck tomorrow, John.