

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JOHN COOK
Sunday, August 25, 2013

PHIL STAMBAUGH: John, you go out and equal the day's low round with 66 and post 13-under but it's not quite good enough, John birdied three of the last four holes.

JOHN COOK: Yeah, pretty strong finish for a guy trying to finish off his first event, so hats off to John. I know he's been a battler, never really that much of an exempt player but always a good player, and I knew when he was about ready to turn 50 he was pretty pumped up. Good way for him to finish up trying to capture that first win. It's not easy.

I hung in there. I hit some quality shots coming down the stretch. I hadn't really done much since Birmingham. Last week played okay, finished 7th and really was very mediocre for about four, five weeks there through a stretch where I really wanted and needed to play well, the majors, and I just didn't perform. So this was a nice way to get this last stretch going. We had 10 out of 12 weeks and we played two and I've had two Top 10s and a chance to win, so I've got to keep on going.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Can you just take us through the day if you could?

JOHN COOK: Yeah. Got up on 1 and piped a drive and hit 3-iron 15 feet behind the hole and two-putted. 4, hit a nice drive and a wedge three feet. 5, hit a nice drive and an 8-iron about three feet behind the hole. 8 was weird, I hit a good drive and I had a number that just was not good. I couldn't get 3-iron there and hybrid was too much. All I could see was that right bunker being a bad place, so I laid it up, normally a real strong suit of mine and I just misjudged. I've got a new wedge in the bag that I don't hit quite as far, I love the wedge but I don't hit it quite as far and I just didn't hit it hard enough and made 5. 9, I was in between clubs, chose poorly, hit it over the green, a bad spot. I was between had a 4 and a 5 and I thought if I got a 4 up in the air it would at least hit on the green and have a chance to stop and it bounced in the back rough. I battled. I had a chances at 10, missed about an eight-footer, 11 had about a 12-footer, 13 I made a pretty long putt, about 30 feet.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: 12 or 13?

JOHN COOK: 12. 13, the par 3, I was trapped in between clubs again and hit it in the front bunker with a 6-iron but got it up and down. Then 14 was kind of it, I hit a 3-wood just to the right of the green and hit a horrible pitch shot, just tried to get too cute and deceled on it and didn't get it up and down, missed about a 15-footer. That's normally my bread and butter right there, so I was pretty disappointed. But going down 15 I said just hit a good drive and I bombed a drive down there, hit a hybrid right on the green and two-putted.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: How far, John?

JOHN COOK: It was a tough putt right in the bowl so it was probably 45 feet. I made about a three-footer for my second putt. 16, hit a nice 3-wood and a 9-iron about 15 feet short of the hole, made that. And 17 I hit a 5-iron right at it and it rolled just off the back of the green. I thought I would have a better chance at making birdie there when the ball was in the air. I hit a quality shot. Then 18 has been like the thorn in my side for how many years I've been here and last year, if I make a birdie, I get close to that playoff and I end up making a 7 from the middle of the fairway. First two days I hit great drives and hit my second shots in places where I could barely make a par and today looked kind of the same. Bombed a drive, hit a nice hybrid that I didn't get high enough in the first bunker, and I hit a great bunker shot out about six feet, five feet, made that. All in all it was a good week. I hit some nice shots today or this week, happy.

Q. The way Riegger was backing up there after 9, did you think it was going to be six, seven, eight guys?

JOHN COOK: Yeah, that's what it looked like. And I knew, my first number that I wanted to get to, I had to get to double figures, had to get to 10 and I got myself there, bogeyed 9, but after that I just settled down and really gave myself some opportunities. Once I got it back to 10, I said okay, now the next number for me is 12, let's get it to 12, and I started looking at the way things were going and nobody was really doing anything. Everybody had kind of stalled. I think Freddy was the only one making kind of a move, but he was pretty far back. So it looked like if I could get this to 12, there's nobody at 12, 12 would be a good number. Got it to 12 and going up 18, I guess, then all of a sudden I think John made a couple birdies. I knew I had to get to 13 to have a chance.

Q. Where were you as he was coming down, going to the range, the locker room?

JOHN COOK: I was by the scorer's tent just standing there. If I would have been done a little earlier I probably would have, but I thought they were right behind us but they were way behind us, they were way behind us. It was like the British Open '92 all over again, that group behind us was three holes behind us that day. Yeah, so I just stood back there.

Q. To win takes a lot of guts and you've won many times. I guess you have to admire John for a guy who doesn't have much experience at least on this Tour and came from the Web.com Tour to hold tight with Couples and you and Sauers and some of the other guys knocking on the door.

JOHN COOK: A lot of winners behind him, absolutely. Hats off, absolutely. It's

something to win obviously because we're winning against the same guys we were playing against 25, 30 years ago and all the way through, so it's not like we're playing a bunch of younger guys. We know how good these guys are. For him to come out and not have that much experience and to do what he did down the stretch is very commendable. I know he's got a good guy on the bag. Pete Jordan is an ex-TOUR player and I'm sure he was chirping in his ear all day because he has some experience. He never won but he was a top 125 guy for a long time, so he had a good guy on the bag, I think, that helped him out. You'll have to ask him, but I would assume that Pete helped him through.

Q. Can you be frank, what kind of reputation did John have on the TOUR? He made over 200 starts and obviously can hit it a long way, but what was kind of the good and bad in him?

JOHN COOK: I don't really know. I think he enjoyed himself pretty much. He looks like he can -- he had those heaters going all day, I wonder how many smokes he had. He's a great guy, he really is a fun guy. I don't know him real well but I know him well enough to know that he enjoys life and he's a good guy. It's nice to see good people win that struggled through their playing careers. It's not easy out here, never has been, so to win on any level of professional is quite commendable.

Q. (Inaudible)

JOHN COOK: I've won Fred's thing twice, I think I won the Ernst. Was it the Ernst, I think, at --

Q. Englewood and Oberlin? Glendale?

JOHN COOK: Oki's place.

Q. Newcastle?

JOHN COOK: Newcastle, yeah, Overlake and Newcastle, that's right.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Anything else for John?

JOHN COOK: Thank you, pleasure.