

3rd ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JORDAN SPIETH
Saturday, January 25, 2014

Q. Jordan, sort of a tough day in the park out there today. You didn't get off to a great start, but would you have expected to be just shot behind, you know, shooting like you did?

JORDAN SPIETH: No, definitely not. You know, the course was actually, it's gettable. The par 5s are gettable, you just have to be in the fairway, and I guess a lot of people were struggling to hit the fairway today, including myself. I only hit three of them, so that's not going to work, so I get to work on it. But only one shot back and a bunched-up leaderboard, it's going to take a good score tomorrow.

Q. What do you do now? Do you go and figure out how to hit it straight off the tee or are you going to go putt?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, all of the above. Yeah, no, I'm going to start figuring out my driver there and then go work on my putting, and that's what it's going to come down to in the end anyways. Yeah, I'm excited about tomorrow. I had some great saves down the stretch today, so take that momentum.

Q. This round could have gotten squirrely quickly, you were 4-over after the first five holes. What were you able to do to get it back on track and get in this ballgame again?

JORDAN SPIETH: I hit a couple fairways in a row, that helped, including a couple par 5s. Hit the green in 2, finally got a birdie to settle down on 6 there. Then made a couple more birdies throughout the back nine, including a couple really tough holes. So, you know, it's the easier ones I need to find the fairway and give myself better looks at. It was a battle. I mean, that was as much as I've really battled to stay -- to make pars in a long time. My putter was hot from six feet, 10 feet and in really, which is the reason why I'm still in it.

Q. On that note, considering how well you played the last 13 (inaudible), how much confidence did you gain by battling and succeeding?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, a lot, especially on the last four holes there to finish, really the last five holes. To finish 1-under on those last five was solid with the places that I hit the ball. I didn't have a lot of putts overall today after three-putting the 1st, so I feel good. I found it out there about midway through the round and I'm going to carry that momentum with me tomorrow, just hit a few more greens.

Q. Jordan, rough start, but I give you a lot of credit because you held it tough on the back side. Talk about this day, how difficult it was out there.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, it was hard. It wasn't like it was playing any harder than it did the first round. Maybe the pins were a little more difficult, but as a whole tomorrow they'll be even harder, so just tee to green that was a struggle. I hit one fairway on my back nine yesterday; I hit three in the entire round today. You can't play in the rough on this course, you can get away with it on the other course, so I'm going to need to straighten it out tomorrow, be smooth and hit a few more greens.

Q. When your first round ended you made birdie at 18. I think that par save you made at 17 might propel you to some big things tomorrow?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, it was big. It's a tough putt, especially late in the day on poa you've just got to hit it and trust that it's going to do -- break true. I had a couple putts late there, even 15, 14, and then just even a two-footer on 18, they're still really bumpy late in the day so those two footers aren't the easiest ones. But got it in there 1-under on the last five and definitely no complaining, I'll take 1-under on the last five tomorrow.

Q. Do you think you can straighten things out off the tee box?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, just messing around with my load a little, my clubface is a little shut at the top and a little upright. I know what the problem is, I just need to get to the range to fix it.

Q. Talk about how different the course was playing today as opposed to the last few days?

JORDAN SPIETH: The South course really didn't play much different than the first round. The greens weren't any firmer. The pins to start out, 2 was a pretty gettable pin and then 3, 4, 5 were hard, but all in all it didn't play a whole lot different. My score, four strokes, it's amazing the difference in the way I struck the ball to only be four strokes difference between my first round and there. That just shows the way I was putting it today, I just saved myself on the back nine from shooting a really high number. It could have happened, so I'm going to ride some momentum from those last five holes into tomorrow.

Q. What was bigger, the chip on 16 or the par save on 17?

JORDAN SPIETH: 17. Yeah, 16 was pretty basic, I just had to bump it on the green. I had a good lie in the rough there. That one was going to funnel down pretty close. But 17, you know, just a really bad tee shot, hit a great second shot and if it lands two inches short, long, left or right I've got a par, and it hit right in the lip and shot up in the right side and it was kind of an awkward stance, so that putt was great. It was a 10-,

12- footer on poa late in the day that slid. Michael kept me, really kept me in it today. I would have been in trouble without him pitching positive thoughts my way because I was getting down on myself with my confidence and we kind of regained it.

Q. How much does that momentum, like you said, kind of help you going into tomorrow's round?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, very much so. I've got to go figure out on the range, but once I get a feeling with my driver, that's typically all it is is one feeling. I just couldn't establish it out there today. But to be able to see putts go in and go in the middle of the hole even late in the day out here, that's huge because tomorrow I'm going to want to visualize what happened today and that's positive going into the putts.

Q. What do you like about the way that your game is right now that can be an advantage as far as going in the final round?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, all I can take out of today that I liked was the putting, and only the putting on the back nine. I didn't have many putts on the back nine, but overall for the week, you know, I've been driving the ball well minus the last 27 holes, but I feel comfortable on this golf course with the shapes of the shots. You kind of need to fade it more on the front nine and then draw it more on the back nine. My driver's been there and I hit a lot of fairways the first round, so I need to draw back on that.

Q. How do you stay focused and not let the pressure of tomorrow and where you're kind of placed at right now get to you?

JORDAN SPIETH: It won't be too hard to stay focused. I really wasn't nervous today surprisingly given that I still haven't been in the final couple groups on the weekend very often, even with what happened last year. I felt very comfortable. I'm sure I will tomorrow. I'll be a little anxious at the beginning but that's how it always is.