

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JEFF SLUMAN
Sunday, June 29, 2014

DAVE SENKO: Okay. Well, Jeff, thanks for joining us. I know maybe it's a little disappointing after that putt on the first extra hole but maybe just take us back to your day. You started five back this morning and went two extra holes.

JEFF SLUMAN: Well, I mean, you look at Bernhard in the lead and he's got five shots on you. I think anybody in the field would have taken the opportunity to go to the 73rd hole with him. But I played a really very steady round of golf today, no mistakes, five birdies. Just a bunch of obviously actually makeable putts during my round, but I drove it in the fairway, which you have to do. Hit a lot of greens. Did this four consecutive days really. I didn't see but I heard a roar on 17. I was playing 18 and obviously I think they said Bernhard made a long one but you expect that from him. I certainly didn't expect him to miss it on the second playoff hole and he didn't. But I was happy to be in that position. I thought I played well all week and if I'm in another playoff, bet on the other guy because I think I'm one and 10 now.

DAVE SENKO: Do you want to go through your birdies real quick, you start off No. 5.

JEFF SLUMAN: Yeah, I birdied 5, I hit an iron off the tee, hit my 56 gap wedge in there to about six feet. I birdied 7, took a driver out, I actually hit it in the hay just to the right edge of the fairway and chipped that to about six feet. No. 9, I hit a beautiful drive out there, had 146 or something, it was a little downwind, hit a draw 9-iron in there to about six feet. Trying to think.

DAVE SENKO: 14.

JEFF SLUMAN: 14, I hit a beautiful drive in the middle of the fairway and it was kind of in between yards that I think everybody struggled with that particular shot this week with your short irons. I had 115. I tried to hit a big gap wedge, I hit a smooth wedge and flew it about 120 and it spun back to about six feet, made that. 16, hit a really nice drive. It was playing downwind, very similar yardage and wind to No. 9, and I had 150 and I just hit a big 9-iron to -- that was another six, eight feet and made that. Two beautiful shots on 17 and 18 in regulation and gorgeous putts that didn't go in, and probably saw the one in the playoff. I'm not going to hit a better putt than that, it just didn't go in.

DAVE SENKO: What was the distance on that?

JEFF SLUMAN: I would say that was eight to 10 feet.

DAVE SENKO: Questions?

Q. Jeff, needless to say, you thought that putt was in on --

JEFF SLUMAN: I thought everybody did, including Bernhard. He couldn't believe it didn't go in also.

Q. You talked yesterday about this being a shootout but you didn't think you would be in this position. Were you surprised with the outcome?

JEFF SLUMAN: Well, I felt like I was going to play well but I just didn't think with the players that were ahead of me, that they would basically not, you know, shoot, 2-, 3-, 4-under themselves. The golf course wasn't going to get rock hard overnight, so you knew that every pin was going to be accessible. But, you know, it's Sunday. Sometimes there's Sunday nerves. You make a little mistake here or there on these greens and you can pay for it. I just plodded along and the next thing I know I looked up on 16 really for about the first time and saw I was right there, I saw I was tied for first and I make birdie there. Not that you're surprised, but I guess with Kenny there and Russ was playing great, I played with him yesterday, he shot 63. Of course Bernhard, unbelievable player that he is, you're really not expecting those guys to shoot around level par. You really can't control what they do, I can only try and control what I'm doing.

Q. Jeff, given that you played practically mistake free as you said, no bogey even including a playoff, how hard is it to, when they did do the things that had to happen, how hard is it to still not win? Did you think things would kind of go in your favor that way?

JEFF SLUMAN: Just the way it is. You've got to play hard every single shot and I did that this week. When the tournament's over and you recap it in your mind, I did everything that I could. Got into a playoff and lost on obviously the 74th hole. But you know, I'm not going to rue about it or anything, I'm just going to go on and say I performed well, I performed well under pressure. All the things that I'm working on are continuing to get better and tee it up in a couple weeks at our Senior U.S. Open.

Q. Jeff, the birdie put on 18 in regulation, how long would you say that was?

JEFF SLUMAN: It was probably about 12 to 14 feet.

Q. And it was on a similar line?

JEFF SLUMAN: No, it was a little bit left, so it was kind of more up into it and then breaking, and that one didn't break as much. I hit a nice putt there with a perfect speed to make it and it just didn't break as much as I played. But once again, I hit my starting line and really that's all you can do. These greens have tremendous character to them and there's a lot of big breaks and subtle breaks and you think you've got a perfect line, sometimes they don't go in.

Q. The shot before your putt on 18 when you said you heard the crowd, do you have any reaction to that?

JEFF SLUMAN: You expect it. You know, in golf you always expect your opponent to make the shot, hole out, make the long putt, do something. You know, we're the best players in the world over 50 and if you look at Bernhard's record, he doesn't make many mistakes. He's a fierce competitor. I didn't know whether it was Russ, Kenny or Bernhard, but I felt like with the roar, you can kind of tell that somebody made something from a good distance for birdie. It wasn't a par roar, let's put it that way.

Q. Does that go for the second shots on the second playoff hole? You saw where he was, you knew where you were. Do you still expect him to make the kind of shot?

JEFF SLUMAN: Absolutely. In a strange way, as long as his lie wasn't too bad, it's probably -- he had a great angle and he's not going to spin the ball too much, so if he can get it over that bunker, I mean, that was a great place to be. I mean, I don't think he planned on hitting it in the rough because you could catch a really horrible lie down there, but if he catches a good lie, that's actually a pretty good spot to be.

Q. (No microphone.)

JEFF SLUMAN: You mean stuck in my craw? Well, when that moron jumped in the water at TPC in '87, I would say that one kind of stuck in my craw. I shouldn't say moron. I think he called himself a moron after he did it.

DAVE SENKO: Any more questions? Thank you, Jeff.