

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: JOHN COOK & JOEY SINDELAR
Friday, April 23, 2015



DAVE SENKO: Joey, good playing.

JOEY SINDELAR: Thank you so much, appreciate that. When weather feels like home, we play like home.

DAVE SENKO: Joey, we're just asking each player just how the day went for you and some birdies, who made the birdies, and then get a couple questions.

JOEY SINDELAR: Of course, sure. So you want me to fire away?

DAVE SENKO: Yeah, just how you played today.

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, as I always prefer to start this team tournament interview, and we've been lucky to have a few of them through the last five or six years, the last one or two years have not been great but I think we've surrounded that with some good stuff. The first thing I always need to say is when you have a partner as good as John, not only as good as he is but the way he is good, which means in play, he's just relentless in play, and when he isn't, his short game is so good that he recovers. So it's just a relief. I used to say that John was like having 68 for a partner every single day, but then a couple years ago I had to leave because I was hurt and he went out and shot 65 on his own. So I actually have 65 as a partner with John so that's a big, big relief. And he was in his true form. He didn't make -- I don't think he made a birdie until the back nine and then he made like four. So I kind of birdied -- I had the birdies on the front and he had a bunch of them on the back. We only kind of messed around and almost got in trouble once on the back nine, I think it was hole No. 13, which is a big, beautiful, tough par 3, but we got a par. So 10 birdies and no bogeys and pretty darn stress free.

DAVE SENKO: How did you find the conditions today?

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, this is a very interesting golf course. I don't know whether it's because the Zoysia is just coming out of its dormancy, but this course does hold a lot of water tee to green. But I've got to tell you, the greens themselves, to watch the rain that happened and then one hour later be on them and the ball is going forward as it hits on the greens and the putting was fantastic. Whether you made them or not, it wasn't the greens, they were magnificent. Really, because often the whole golf course gets spongy and soft, but these greens held up so beautifully. And again, when we're teeing it up, we've got the ball in hand in the fairway so we can work around the water, no problem there. So we were just getting a lot of chances at it and knocked some in. I actually made two or three longish putts, you know, started out with maybe a 35- or 40-footer on the second hole and made a couple of other medium-medium long ones. So it was a good putting day for me, very good.

Q. The forecast for tomorrow's a lot of wind. How big a concern is that coming over here to the par 3 where things can get blown around quite a bit?

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, there's no doubt. Even for short holes there's some pretty big elevation changes, so there will be some head scratching, there's no doubt about that. The good news for my elements is it's going to be way warmer tomorrow so I'm very, very happy about that. So I think I'll take the trade of warmer and windier.

The big golf course over here at Buffalo Ridge, the good news is that it is a big course, so the wind will make some shots tough but when the fairways are soft, the ball's not rolling obviously. So if you can land it in the fairway, it will fit right there. I think the guys will still be able to shoot some nice scores over here. And John and I are yet to shoot a good score over there, so maybe high wind is what we needed.

DAVE SENKO: John, we asked Joey and a couple of the other guys just how your round went today and how you guys played. I know Joey alluded to I guess you made several birdies on the back nine?

JOHN COOK: Yeah. The front nine I was just kind of there and making my pars. And I hit one really good looking shot I hit, he hit it in there a foot, so we doubled up on No. 4. But other than that, I kind of went around. I haven't played golf in so long, I was a little rusty early. Once I got my feet going and kind of got back into playing golf, I hit some nice shots on the back, but Joey really covered the front. He played the par 3s, he hit two beautiful shots on the par 3s on the front, just basic kick-ins. We covered a couple other holes. Yeah, the back side I made a couple and then he made a couple back to back. We alternated, we both made a lot of birdies.

DAVE SENKO: John, do you remember on the back nine who made the birdies on 10 and 12?

JOHN COOK: Yeah, I birdied 10, hit it in there about three feet. Joey birdied 12, about 20 feet. I had about an eight-footer that I putted and actually made, so we doubled up again. We don't get credits, though. You only get one point, you don't get two. And then 15 on in, yeah, we alternated. I birdied 15, about eight feet. Joey birdied 16, about 20 feet. I birdied 17, about 15 feet. And then Joey birdied 18, about six feet, after I had missed a makeable about 15-footer. He made a clutch putt there on 18, it was good to see that go in. So we covered each other nicely today.

DAVE SENKO: You guys have played together for a long, long time, but how much fun is it to play with a guy you played college golf with?

JOHN COOK: Yeah, it's pretty special. I mean, I've known O'Meara since we were kids and all that, but Joey and I, we wanted to hook up right from the start and keep that team thing going. It's pretty special to remain friends for over 30 years after we've been done, 35

years actually. So it's a great partnership. We've had a nice run in this event, chance to win a couple of times and it's good to see him healthy and back. I'm happy to be back out playing, feel like I haven't played hardly at all this year. We kind of pulled each other along and going to enjoy the next couple days.

Q. John, you said this is the first time out for you for a while. How important is that to have the team aspect maybe take a little bit of the pressure off and let you work some rust off?

JOHN COOK: Absolutely, that was a big part of it especially on this front nine, the first nine today. I was playing nicely, I hit a couple squirrely shots, but I hit some really nice shots. But I wasn't really getting the ball close, I just wasn't -- it looked rusty a little bit. Then the back side I kind of got my, like I said, I got my legs under me and started playing golf and hitting some good golf shots. It took me about nine holes to really get going. I hit a nice shot at No. 9 which was nice and then Joey just stuffed one right on top of it. Yeah, the team thing helped out a lot. I know last year I missed 10 weeks, and my first about three weeks I really looked like I hadn't played any golf. But this was nice in this format to get back out and play. I plan on playing a lot the rest of the year, so I'm excited to play some golf.

Q. Were you injured? What kept you out?

JOHN COOK: No, it just kind of worked out that way. Unfortunately I missed Biloxi, but I was asked to do some television and that's kind of where I'm going with my life after golf. They asked me to do San Antonio, so I did that and had a great time, learned a lot. Then we were off a couple of weeks. Then last week we had a family trip to Palm Springs that had been planned for quite a while, so I missed Atlanta. But we were excited to play. It's not like I haven't been playing. I've been practicing, playing a little bit here and there, not a lot, but certainly feel like I've got a nice run to the end of the year and going to play most every single event. Really feel like I'm healthy again. Last year I wasn't healthy until the end of the year, even if I was then. I still was hurting pretty badly. Got in some bad habits and worked them out this winter, starting to come together a little bit.

DAVE SENKO: Okay, John, thank you.

JOHN COOK: Thank you.