

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: JASON GORE
Saturday, July 18, 2015



MODERATOR: Congratulations on a nice turnaround at the Barbasol Championship. What a difference a day makes, 10-stroke difference between yesterday and today, 73-63. Obviously in great position heading into the final round tomorrow, it's not said and done yet, but some comments on what I think ties your career low round?

JASON GORE: I shot 59 before. (Inaudible). Yeah, I hit them well today. I made a few 10-footers, that was really it. I've been hitting it -- hit it well Thursday, didn't hit it so great yesterday. But, you know, it's just one of those things, just kind of saw some good lines and actually hitting some good putts.

Q. What was your outlook on the tournament heading into today after your performance yesterday?

JASON GORE: Shockingly enough, I was still pretty positive. I knew I wasn't out of this golf tournament, I was only 5 back as bad as I played yesterday. So I just tried to go out and just try to play well. You know, I knew it was going to be hot, it was going to be long, so just tried to keep your nose down and keep barreling forward. Like I said, I was only 5 back. If anybody else is 5 back, you think you're kind of still in contention. So yeah, I knew I was playing well, just had to keep moving forward and just be patient.

Q. This has been a pretty (inaudible) course for a lot of players. How satisfying is it to be bogey-free in this round?

JASON GORE: It was pretty good. I didn't even know I was bogey-free. My caddie asked me out there, he goes, What are we at? I said, I have no idea. I was just trying to move forward. It was almost to the point you were trying to get water in you more than you were worried about your score, trying not to fall over. But, you know, it is a difficult golf course. The greens are huge but the areas you have to hit it in are small. I'm generally a good iron player, so once I got in the fairway I was just trying to knock down some pins. There's certain places you just cannot miss around here and so you just try to avoid those and be aggressive when you have the opportunity to be aggressive.

Q. Seemed like a lot of people were struggling to get in the hole on 9. Why is that?

JASON GORE: When I went through there, there was like this little puff of rogue wind. I was right at the stretch of my 7-iron, I think I had like 180 in there and I had to hit it perfect and I hit it really, really solid and it came up short. So I don't know if there's just like a little puff of wind in there that just -- that got in this or it's just playing a little bit more uphill or if's just off the upslope. There's just a ton of factors. Plus, over that green is muerte, it's dead, so you don't want to -- you're better off trying to two-putt from below that ridge than trying to get up and down from there.

Q. You mentioned you hit a couple 10-footers today. Was that just the big difference for you, just knocking down the longer putts?

JASON GORE: Yeah, I'm trying to think of the longest putt I made today was. I think it was probably like 13 feet. So I hit it close pretty much all day. Yesterday I just didn't make any putts. It's what it is, I just didn't get it up and down, didn't make any putts. I hit it in some wrong spots and just kind of hosed from there. Today I hit it in the right spots and was able to see the line and roll it right down the line and it found the bottom 10 more times than yesterday.

Q. What's going to be your mindset going into tomorrow?

JASON GORE: I'm going to go to the first tee, I'm going to hit that tee shot. I know it sounds so cliché and boring, that's really what I do. I'm just going to go hit the tee shot and try to find the ball from there, and then hit the second shot and just go forward. It's really kind of what I do. I'm not looking around to see what anybody's doing. I can't control what they do, I can only control what I do. I'm going to try to play some good golf and we'll add them up at the end.

Q. You talked about the heat being a concern. How do you battle against those elements?

JASON GORE: Drink lots of water. I mean, I think I drank a bottle a hole and haven't gone to the bathroom yet. I probably shouldn't mention that here. You know, if it's 50 degrees out, I'm sweating, so this is nothing new for me. The moment I stop sweating, call an ambulance, it doesn't matter what the air temperature is outside. But, you know, at my tender age of 41 I like the heat now, I don't like the cold. Body feels good in the heat and that always -- I don't know why, you would think a pudgy guy from California shouldn't like the overheat but I always have.

I'm glad there's more questions, I didn't want to leave on pudgy.

Q. What difference did the pin placements today make? You said you putted well, got it close. What difference was the hole locations?

JASON GORE: There really wasn't. There's a few front locations that, you know, some of these greens are so severe that it kind of funnels and you know where the backstops are. They're not quite at the speed where you're going to hit up at the backstop and come all the way back down to the hole kind of Augusta National-ish. You know, like I said, around here you just kind of have to tiptoe your way around some of the tougher pins and know like on 16 that pin's back down over the ridge and we did a good job of not shooting all the way back to the pin and try to land it short and let it run down that hill. I think I hit it four feet there. You have to take that kind of extra five seconds to look at the book and find out what the green's doing and just try to play a little chess game in there with some of these pin locations.

Q. This question may be kind of answering itself. This is a new event, obviously it's new for everybody. In your mind does that give you a little bit of thought of this is as much -- there's no favorites here, this course doesn't favor anybody, I've really got as much of a chance?

JASON GORE: I'll preempt that story with a story. When I was a rookie and had to go to rookie orientation, Kirk Triplett was the guy who spoke at our thing and he said, "Guys, welcome to the best tour in the world playing against the best players in the world on their home golf courses."

So, you know, you're playing guys that have played these golf courses for 12, 15 years and now you're a fresh face and going out and trying to beat them on golf courses they've played a hundred times. So I think this is -- it kind of -- it just opens it up a little bit more.

The golf course I play at home is a Robert Trent Jones golf course so I kind of know what he likes to do with the greens and stuff like that. Valencia Country Club is a Robert Trent Jones Sr. golf course. This golf course reminds me of if Valencia Country Club and Spyglass Hill had a baby, that's kind of what it feels like except it's 200 degrees out. But it feels very familiar, I love it. I think it's a great golf course. You have to really plod your way around and you have to drive the ball good, put it in the fairways and from there you can go.

MODERATOR: All right, Jason, appreciate your time as always. Best of luck tomorrow.