

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: JEFF FREEMAN
Saturday, August 22, 2015



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay, Jeff, 68 today. You made four birdies in a five-hole stretch midway through the round and get in at 7 under, two off the lead, and depending on what Billy does, could be three. Just talk about your round today.

JEFF FREEMAN: It was pretty steady. I got off to a fairly good start of hitting it good. Where did I make a bogey? I made a bogey there on No. 4, I think.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Right.

JEFF FREEMAN: Yeah, No. 4. Didn't hit a very good drive and kind of flared it down to the right. Laid up, hit a good third shot up there, just missed my putt. But, you know, just playing good, playing steady, hitting good shots.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: How far was your par putt there on No. 4?

JEFF FREEMAN: It was probably about six feet. Just missed it on the left.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: And run through the birdies.

JEFF FREEMAN: And then where did I start birdieing?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: No. 7.

JEFF FREEMAN: No. 7, yeah, hit a good shot there from about 110 yards. Hit a good shot behind the hole, a little right-to-left putt, made that. No. 8, I was actually -- I hit a good drive off that hole and had to almost kind of lay up to the right because the green's so hard, you couldn't stop it on there. Got it up and in for an easy birdie there. No. 9, hit a really good 8-iron just to the back edge of the green, missed that. 10, hit a good sand wedge to about 12 feet, made that. And then No. 11, I hit a big drive and hit a sand wedge just on top of the hill and it backed back down to about 35, 40 feet and somehow made that. And then just fairly steady from then on, not much happening there.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: You did birdie 16.

JEFF FREEMAN: Yeah, I hit a sand wedge to probably about four feet there, managed to sneak it in. Then I hit a real good shot on 17 right behind the hole, I left it short. No. 18, just hit it a little right in the bunker and didn't get it up and in. Could have been a little better, could have been a little worse, but all in all not bad, especially playing with Freddie's crowd.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: You came out here to Seattle and you were an alternate. I guess you got in when Jim Thorpe withdrew about 20 minutes before the qualifier.

JEFF FREEMAN: Yeah, I got in right before I teed it up in qualifying.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: You're making the most of your opportunity. Just talk about that whole thing.

JEFF FREEMAN: It's tough out here when you don't have full exemption. You don't know where you're going, you don't know if you're going to get in, you can't make your plans for the whole year, it's tough traveling. And when you do get in, you've got to make the most of it. Haven't done that yet so far, but hopefully this week it will turn around.

Q. Describe playing with Freddie. I mean, did you have to really lock in your concentration because it can get rowdy out there?

JEFF FREEMAN: Yeah, but I mean he's such a super guy, he's so easy going, makes you feel comfortable. But it's like playing with a rock star. Just like Willie Wood said last night going out to eat with him, it's like going out to eat with a rock star, especially here in Seattle. But he's a great guy and he's fun to play with.

Q. How do you combat nerves tomorrow being in the final group?

JEFF FREEMAN: I did okay playing with Freddie today, so pretty much the same thing. Just try to stay in the present and do what I'm doing and hopefully it's good enough.

Q. Is it real frustrating, you touched on it, real frustrating knowing that you can't play in things? I mean, do you feel like giving up sometimes, or is it always the opportunity is there and keeps you driving?

JEFF FREEMAN: You know, a lot of times you feel like not doing it. It's such a struggle sometimes when you're not fully exempt. When I was fully exempt, I didn't turn 50 until April so I missed the first eight events, which hurt me. Yeah, you know, deep down in your mind you know you can do it and you hope you can do it, but it gets frustrating. Just got to keep plugging.