

Q. You're either in the lead or tied with the lead except for the last quarter inch on the 18th hole.

JEFF SLUMAN: Yeah, I can't believe that the bunker shot ended up about 10 feet short. I didn't think I could leave it short even. And certainly the putt looked like it was going in. Maybe the wind caught it a little. But overall pretty happy with the day. Played solid golf in very trying conditions and this golf course is very challenging. It's a great test of golf and we're happy to be here.

Q. What makes it a great test, 7,000 yards?

JEFF SLUMAN: You've just got to hit every kind of shot out there. You know, the open view is great, you kind of see everything. I believe there was a few more trees here, kind of like Oakmont many years ago, but just very challenging. You have to play it the way the architect felt you should. Certainly there's times you can kind of go against it, but those are long odds and you've just got to kind of understand the places to miss it and then hit some good recovery shots from there.

Q. How did you deal with the wind today, was it like a one-club wind, two-club wind or was it just swirling all over?

JEFF SLUMAN: It was at times at least two clubs, but then it would lay down for a minute and then it would roar back. In conditions like that you just have to be very patient, understand the shot you're trying to hit and then really try and execute it. If the wind falls or it increases more than you're thinking, there's really not much you can do about that. Just try and hit the right shot that's ahead of you and from there you're a little bit -- it's a little bit of a lottery at times.

Q. Is it easier when the wind is blowing like in an open space like this rather than bumping up against the trees and swirling?

JEFF SLUMAN: I don't know. When you've got trees there, a lot of times it kind of -- the wind subsides a little bit, but you get this open look and the wind is whistling from wherever we are, in the northwest today. You know it's there, it's going to be a challenge and you've just got to, like I said, do the best you can.

Q. You said the open view is great, it seems like an easy place for people to come and watch golf, too, and know where to go next. What is your impression of how it sort of feeds spectators and serves them?

JEFF SLUMAN: Well, I think golf is a very visual game and there's two types of golf courses, those that are obviously tree lined and you kind of only see that hole, and there's other golf courses now that they've taken a lot of trees out here, and certainly at Oakmont I think we all know the thousands of trees out. They've got that big panorama and I think it's a lot of times it's much easier to drive the ball straight on a tree-lined golf course because you've got some visuals, I can't go here or here. But you get out on a big panorama like this, sometimes your eye just kind of wanders, it's difficult to kind of get that ball in play. Obviously when Tillinghast did this golf course there were probably no trees, right?

Q. True, yeah.

JEFF SLUMAN: Pictures of that. Virtually every great golf course that's 50 to 100 years old is in these type of positions now of how many trees to take down.

Q. That brings up the question about a lot of motion going on no matter where you look. How do you handle that?

JEFF SLUMAN: Well, hopefully at this stage of my career, 40 years playing professionally, I know how to handle it. But when you're a young guy it's a little different. You can kind of let your eye wander and you see all the players over here and the crowds over here and that, so you've just got to by experience say, you know, I've got to do what I've got to do and I'm not worried about anybody else.

Q. Last six holes I think you had a stretch of like birdie, bogey, birdie, bogey, something like that?

JEFF SLUMAN: I birdied 13 and I thought I had a perfect shot on 14, a little 60-degree wedge par 3 straight downwind and it's probably a foot from hitting it perfect and it stayed on the front fringe. Thought I hit a good chip, went seven feet by, wind just carried it on, lipped out the putt. Birdied the next hole, 16. That was as difficult a shot as you're going to see. It was blowing 20, 25 miles an hour right to left, they've got the pin on a little shelf on the top right. If you miss it right, you've got zero chance. I thought I hit a pretty good shot and the wind just immediately took it left and then it straightened out. Again, a game of inches, that ball hung up on the very first cut but it was just past the hole. Had it gone, you know, a foot less, it rolls back down. It's certainly not an easy two-putt but a putt that you're probably going to two-putt. I made a nice par on 17, and 18 described earlier, kind of amazing it didn't go in for 4. I made a few other putts that hung on the lip and went in today.