ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: JOEY SINDELAR (-10)

August 19, 2017



Q. So, Joey, another great round today, putting yourself a couple shots off the lead. How did the game feel out there and how did you think you did?

JOEY SINDELAR: Thank you. I'm pleased with the score. Really up until three holes to go, I probably would have said I played better today than I did yesterday. It might not have looked that way, but the kinds of things that I did better, I was happy. Some of the things were internal that you guys wouldn't notice as much that's a feeling on the way I'm striking the ground and that sort of thing. Last couples holes got a little out of round, but there's some shots that you've got to keep out of the water and keep using the same ball, otherwise you ruin it all. So it wasn't perfect, but it was really fun and made some putts and had a blast.

Q. How much more fun is it on Sunday to tee off in one of the later groups knowing that you have a good shot at making a run?

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, let's see, I would have to think back to probably early last year to summon a memory about that since I haven't done that this year. It's always a blast. You know, it's why you compete. It's not always the answer -- right now isn't always the answer to the question, which is a silly thing to say because we get paid on right now, but we're looking for long term. We're looking for getting better for the next month or two. But are you kidding me? Even though we're 59, we still think we're kids inside and we're competing and it's a blast.

Q. The hometown support that you have here even making a par putt there on 18, a pretty good ovation as well as a good gallery following. What's that mean to you?

JOEY SINDELAR: It's as good as it gets. This is one of the things I wait for every single year for, how long have I been doing this, since '83, '82 maybe, 35 years, and it never gets old. A lot of people with a lot of encouragement, loving those smiles and they're awesome fans.

Q. Could you envision going back to your championship years here and then fast forward 30 years, and now could you ever envision that you're in the hunt again, PGA TOUR Champions, hometown?

JOEY SINDELAR: Yeah, it's a wild thing. When you're in your 30s, you're invincible, right? You never think you're going to be 60. So I don't think I ever thought out this far, I'm sure I didn't, but I can sure think backwards and it's been a blur and a blast. I think I have a chance -- Maureen, maybe you know -- to be -- so several guys here probably have a chance to be the first ones to win on both sides of the coin. I would love to be that ball hog.

Q. What's it going to take?

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, same answer as yesterday. You saw 61 today. I don't get that, that's pretty awesome. Kevin and, let's see, who shot the 64s yesterday? Kevin and Wes Short. Then McCarron goes out and shoots 61 and separates himself. What was next best round today? I didn't see anything below 65 maybe, I don't know. So you just can't know.

Of all the things -- this is my one little spiel I like to say. One of the things, a lot of guys change the game a lot. Longer, straighter drivers. John Daly hitting it so far and so straight. But I think Tiger's the one that changed the way players play with the lead. I used to describe in the '80s, it would be two days of sprint and two days of chess match on the leaderboard in a four-round tournament. The lead would go 6, 12, 14, 14. That's what the curve usually looked like.

Then when he came along, it was like if you were up by 6, he wasn't scared of shooting 62 and beating you on Sunday. Sunday used to be the go-backwards day. Everybody's protecting. He came through and blew that away. All the players sense -- you know, he taught so many around him to do that so there's no protecting anything tomorrow. Somebody's going to step on the gas and get it done. I would like it to be me, but somebody's going to do it. I think I said yesterday, I think Colin, I read his thoughts in the paper and you're thinking you start off with 67 and going down from there and that's what it's going to take.

Q. Take us through the eagle on 12.

JOEY SINDELAR: Thank you, Maureen. So a really good drive for me which left me with a full 3-wood from probably 240 to the cup, crosswind. Hit a really nice 3-wood that got over the trap but short of the green, but the pin was very close to me, only 20 feet, 25 feet from where the ball was and it was a beautiful lie. With the rain, the rough has grown like it's been fertilized, it's starting to get really deep in some spots. But that was a perfect lie downgrain and I'm not the -- you know, chipping's never been my main thing but I've worked hard on it and I'm getting better. I felt good about the chip, and it is one of those that can go in and it did, the cup got right in the way, so I was happy.

Q. I caught up with you on the back side. It seemed like a lot of different parts of your game were tested on that back side.

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, yeah, the back side's harder. I kind of went to sleep after my first three birdies. There's plenty of good shots but it ebbs and flows, and starting on 13 there's some really good holes there. 13, the fairway, I just missed it but it was a good drive, so then you're playing to 30 feet. 14, that pin's right by the water. It's a double bogey if you hit it in the water. Same with 15, if you challenge that water and fail, that's a double bogey. Not to be thinking negative, but this is -- you know, I like to hit a shot with a picture frame as my target. The picture frame is wide right there on 15, you just can't do it. You would like to have good shots on 16 and 18.

But again, so I guess a different kind of answer to your question would be I've worked really hard in the last week making a change in my swing and this is the first real test. Son of a gun, I'm right up there in the last couple groups. So it's the ultimate pressure and the ultimate test.

And there are some shots like on 18, again, a lost ball means a penalty or a bogey or a double, so at least I'm failing on the correct side. So yeah, it was a little sloppier than I might have liked it, but the job got done and we get to come back tomorrow.

Q. How happy were you with that approach on 15, and were you worried about the limb?

JOEY SINDELAR: Yeah, luckily with the club length, that tree, there was a dead branch, so I picked the highest window in that branch but I caught a good lie on the ground. You know, when we drop the ball, we're always looking for what does the grass look like where the ball's going to go because you don't want to drop it with the grain in the wrong way into you.

So I found a downgrain patch within the legal drop and then it was actually on the downslope a little bit, which helped me keep it under the tree with the 8-iron I was hitting. So it was one of those mistakes that all added up to something good and got away with it. The putt going in would be great, but you'd stand on that tee and take 4, but if you need 3 to win, you're still going to take 4 on that hole, it's just one of those holes.