

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 30, 2017



JORDAN ZUNIC (-6)

MODERATOR: Jordan, thanks for joining us. You sort of snuck up on us at the end there, chipped in on 18, is that right.

JORDAN ZUNIC: On the ninth was my last hole, yeah, chipped in for eagle there so it was a pretty good finish.

MODERATOR: Can you talk us through that eagle?

JORDAN ZUNIC: Yeah. So I was just not even off the green. I hit 3-wood off the green to play in between the bunkers and just laid up short right of the green with a 5-iron just due to the way they put the pin today tucked right up in the left in the middle there over that bunker with downwind. One of my playing partners hit a great shot in there, landed right near the hole, ended up over the back. So I was like I'll just play it short right and just try and get up and down for 4, and I hit just a perfect pitch that just went in. It was a great way to finish.

Q. Jordan, where did this come from? With great respect, things haven't been particularly good in recent times for you. Did you see this brewing, this round?

JORDAN ZUNIC: Not really, to be honest. Like you said, I have not been playing as well as I would have liked. I would have to probably put it down to not long ago I read a book by Nick O'Hern, Tour Mentality, and my girlfriend Olivia put me on to it, who's caddying for me. She said, "I read it, it's a great read, why don't you give it a read," because mainly I've been struggling with more of my mindset, mental aspect of the game.

I read it, it was a great read, and we actually -- Olivia reached out to Nick, sent an email to him and said, "We read your book, it's fantastic, it's really helped Jordan a lot." He got back in touch with me, and then fortunately this week I managed to have a practice round with him on Tuesday. So Nick actually came around with me and his wrist was a little sore so he didn't really play at all, he just had a bit of putting on a few greens.

Next thing you know, I'm having like an 18-hole mentor playing lesson with Nick O'Hern. I mean, what can I say, what an awesome bloke. He just gave me such an insight on how to think better. I was being really tough on myself, putting a lot of pressure on myself, and he just made things so simple for me. He's so golf smart. As you guys know, past champion here, got up to I think 16 in the world when he was playing. I mean, what a career he had. For him to reach out to me and give his time to me like that was so great because obviously I've been struggling a little and my family have been there. My girlfriend Olivia who's on the bag for me now, she's doing what she can. It's been tough. To have someone like him with all that experience come out and do that for me on Tuesday, I didn't expect to come out and

everything to click today. But straightaway, just by thinking a little better out there today, I managed to -- the results spoke for themselves. And he actually said that to me. He said just if you do the right things, do your processes, the results will look after themselves, and there you go, that's what happened today. So I have to shout out a big thanks to Nick for that.

Q. Is it a strange feeling making lots of birdies and coming in hearing the music coming from the tented village and stuff like that to be just out there playing golf and you come in and you're suddenly leading the golf tournament when you sign your card?

JORDAN ZUNIC: I mean it's great, it's good fun. You can actually hear the music from a lot of parts of the golf course. I think it's good. I mean it's constantly playing, so when it's your shot obviously you forget all that and in between shots it's nice. You hear music, a song that you like and you pop around to it with your caddie and switch off in between, so I think it's great. And obviously to come in, I didn't realize obviously until I got in that I was tied for the lead. Yeah, it's exactly how you want to start a golf tournament so I'm absolutely over the moon.

Q. Can I just ask the spelling of your -- of Olivia's surname?

JORDAN ZUNIC: Marlow, M-A-R-L-O-W.

Q. When you won the New Zealand Open, did you have a better mental process? Is this getting back to the process that you once had or is it just reconstructing it?

JORDAN ZUNIC: I think it's just getting back to where I was once. Obviously when I started my professional career I started a lot better than I was expecting. Yeah, just back then I didn't have so much pressure on myself. I was enjoying the game probably a lot more than I have been in recent months and I just had to try and find that fun in the game again because it's been a few years since I had that win. This year wasn't as good of a year as I would have liked.

So I suppose I was putting a lot more pressure on myself. That was what was kind of hurting me in the end I realized. I had a long season over on the Challenge Tour in Europe, which was great experience for me, but I would have liked to play a lot better. But again, it's all learning, a learning curve. I'm still not even pro for three years yet. When you look at how many guys I'm competing against just this week who have been on Tour for many years, even seeing Wade Ormsby's story last week after 13 years, his first win there. Sometimes I think my generation, we think -- we expect things to happen straightaway, which can kill us a little bit with having expectations a little bit too high. For me, I'm just going to go back to basics, get my mindset where it needs to be, and if I keep doing that, I think I'm going to shoot a lot more rounds like I did today.

Q. You obviously missed cuts in the last two events, but three consecutive weeks,

have you had a chance to play yourself into some form? Have you just been each time getting better and better or is this a real complete --

JORDAN ZUNIC: I think I've got slightly better. There's been glimpses during parts of my round over the last two weeks where I've done some really good things and stretched together some really good holes, and then I just slip into a bit of a bad mindset, which is what I've been working on.

So I would say it was slowly getting better and I was working towards -- you know, I wasn't expecting things to happen straightaway but obviously then when I did have a sitdown with Nick and was able to talk things through with him, it really just cemented what Olivia and I were doing on the course was correct. So now I've just got to go out there and make sure I do that and continue to do that no matter what, because sometimes it's hard. You get from frustrated on the course when you hit poor shots.

But the main thing we're working on is each shot is its own shot. You don't want to let that shot affect the next shot and that one affect the next shot. So yeah, I just want to get back to one shot at a time. Staying in the present is a big thing that's very important for me. Once a shot's done, club goes in the bag, switch off, talk about something else, and then go to the next shot.

So yeah, I feel like this was coming. Obviously I didn't know how soon it was going to come, but I'm glad. It's nice, it's good for the confidence, which has been a bit low lately, that's for sure.

MODERATOR: Any final questions? Thanks so much for joining us, Jordan. Best of luck tomorrow.

JORDAN ZUNIC: Thanks so much, cheers.