

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
December 1, 2017



JORDAN SPIETH (- 9)

JORDAN SPIETH: I missed three putts inside of five feet, shot 5 under, so driver had a little bit of the hooks but it was manageable. Everything else was really good. My chipping was phenomenal today. I got into some tough spots and stole some strokes with my wedge. Then I putted okay, just the shorties kept it from being a pretty special round.

I feel good. Everything's in good shape going into the weekend. Charlie went pretty nuts, so coming from behind a few shots, but it's a pretty bunched leaderboard and out here we know you've got to make birdies. The toughest part is if you get off to a slow start or you make a bogey on an easy hole, the toughest part is kind of recuperating a little quicker than at normal events where it's actually okay. Here you really fall behind, you've got to not try to press too much, let the golf course give it to you.

Q. What was the sensation of watching that name Woods climb the leaderboard?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, it was cool. I mean, I can't say it's surprising for how confident he seemed and how confident from how I've heard him talk to y'all and to us. He believes that's where he should be, so I don't think anybody should be really surprised. He's another player in this 18-person event that at the end of 72 holes you try and have the low score.

Q. You made an interesting point the other day, Jordan, about being really focused on not dropping shots, because unlike someone like you who's won, what, nine times in the last two years, you drop a shot, you know you can make birdies. When you've been gone a long time, you don't know that you can rattle off birdies compared to someone who's been playing a lot.

JORDAN SPIETH: Sure.

Q. Can you see that?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, yeah. I think it's -- to your point, seeing Woods go up the board, the only surprising thing I would say about it is I took six weeks off and in my seventh week I was jittery, let alone six rounds in two years, coming in and working his way into contention. So it doesn't matter who it is, that's a really impressive feat to have that much time off.

You've got to be anxious, doesn't matter who it is, doesn't matter how well he's been in the past at handling pressure, it's still a new experience for him to have that little golf and to come out and play competitive golf and work his way into contention. That's what's really exceptional up to this far in the tournament, and no matter what happens going forward, I think he can walk away very confidently about how he handled taking a long break and

coming back.

Q. You've had some big Decembers in front of a couple of your bigger years. How big is this month for you as far as building something into the new year?

JORDAN SPIETH: It's certainly important given it's only a few weeks until we start the new season. Anytime you can -- I always talk about being in contention and finding where things are when you feel the nerves and where to make adjustments, it's kind of a major thing. And it doesn't matter if Hawaii's a month away, I can still draw back on last week, this week. Hopefully this week, have a good round tomorrow and have a chance to win Sunday. Whether I win or not, I'll learn something from it that I can take with me into Hawaii. So it is very important because our season's pretty condensed. After the Presidents Cup, before Australia, it's not like I really take much into Australia but it is a short one from here to Kapalua.

Q. From the time you left the Presidents Cup until coming back from Australia, did you introduce anything new into your game?

JORDAN SPIETH: No, no, just the same old, same old, go through all the statistics for the year. Now I've got five years of information, pretty detailed information that I can -- I think over five years you can agree that you start to see trends in your game and if you can move those trends. Say my driving accuracy's been around 60 percent average, my best has been 65, my worst 57, but it's always around there. If I can move that to 63, 64, one more fairway a round, I start to see these trends and we work specifically on that part of the game, whether that's an actual execution of a driver, so hitting a lot more drivers working on the ball flights, or it's decision-making off the tee and positioning, which I would consider a strength of mine, so it's more of the execution for me.

So I haven't introduced anything new. It's been where are these trends and how can we improve the average by a small margin that makes a big difference the first of the year.

Q. Chipping and putting rate out okay?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, putting from four to 15 feet this past year was a down year for me. I saw it out here, it's a little bit of the same this week. It's all about just getting comfortable in setup and having a nice trigger. When I have that, I don't miss them and I know I'm not going to miss them. But it's hard to get into that frame of mind for me that for whatever reason, lowering expectations and just stroking it. So it's kind of what I'm trying to figure out. It's tough, it's impossible to practice that, it's impossible to practice putting under pressure. My practice comes from having situations out there on the course.

Q. Do you have any sense that Michael's watching you between diaper changings?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I think he's jealous when the baby's having a bad day. I think he's plenty fine where he's at when the baby's doing well, and he's where he needs to be.

Q. He's going to love being back with you, it's going to feel like nothing, right?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I think the baby's going to be there next time he's back with us, so he'll have both, he'll have both babies.

Q. Any year you win a major, is it automatically a great year?

JORDAN SPIETH: Absolutely, no question. I look back on '17 as it will be a year that I'll remember forever.