

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 28, 2018

JORDAN SPIETH



Q. Is this a golf course you feel you can be aggressive on and is it the same conditions as last year?

JORDAN SPIETH: I don't know if it's a golf course I feel like I can be aggressive on it. It's one you just, like, you really have to plot your way. So each shot you have, you have to have a game plan, you have to stick to it ahead of time. Are you going to play more aggressive or are you going to play more conservative. That way you're committing to what you're doing. Some guys get out here and maybe they're even par, playing conservative, they take out driver on a few holes and you go to a couple over, or the other way around, you know? You start dialing it back and then all of a sudden you're trying to do too much. It's tricky because of the altitude and the shape of the holes. You have to work the ball both ways off the tee with four or five different clubs in a round. So it's unique, we don't see it very often.

Q. Up until just a few weeks ago you were still kind of uncommitted. What put you over the top to play this week?

JORDAN SPIETH: Well, I love the golf course and I love the event in general. I just didn't really know what was going to be best for me to be best prepared for the Masters, and ultimately this tournament was one that I thought would be a potential fantastic event for that.

I also don't typically commit to tournaments until pretty late anyways, so it wasn't really that much out of the ordinary. I was just trying to figure out exactly where I was going to tee it up and get on-course reps.

Q. Did you practice in Mexico this year, this week, last week?

JORDAN SPIETH: No.

Q. So how much of a difference has there been, and can you pick it up quick enough?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, so we did a lot of good homework last week. You can do actually -- Trackman can actually give you a lot of data at home setting the normalization to 8,000 feet and you can start to see with different heights and with different speeds how far the ball actually goes. Then you want to get out here and actually test it out and trust it on the course. So the last two days went really well, striking the ball, my distance control has been fairly solid to start. So for me, I've been hitting the ball well, I've been on a very nice

trend in my short game and putting. It's just going to be about controlling the ball and hitting a lot of fairways off the tee. So I'm not sure if that means I'll play more aggressive or conservative yet, but we'll have a plan that we'll stick to by tomorrow afternoon.

Q. How was the experience of playing with Lorena Ochoa who's like a local celebrity?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, local and international celebrity, one of the -- a World Golf Hall of Famer and one of the greatest women's players to ever play the game. It was an honor to meet her. It was weird having her asking me questions, I had so many questions for her. It was I think a pretty cool experience that I'm looking forward to seeing kind of the final product from it.

Q. What did you want to ask her?

JORDAN SPIETH: Well, she's asking me like how do you read this, and I'm like, well, how did you do it, you did it so well. And then it's funny watching her, she said she's so rusty, she hasn't hit in front of this many people in like five years or something, and she hits three perfect shots in a row. I think that was probably the most offline I've ever seen Lorena hit a shot and it was 20 feet left of the pin. Just an incredible talent. Yeah, I mean, there was probably a lot of questions I would want to ask about just the process that she went in to be so successful.

Q. Is she tougher than Ariya Jutanugarn?

JORDAN SPIETH: She probably would have been had I played in the same tournament back in the day. Thank you, Doug. Yes, I probably would have lost to her, too.