

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**March 2, 2018**

**JORDAN SPIETH (-5)**



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**Q. A bogey-free round of 67 today. What was the secret to your success?**

**JORDAN SPIETH:** Ball striking. I had three two-putt birdies and a short range birdie putt, and then I had a lot of other looks and that's kind of what you need on this golf course. These greens get a little beat up on this poa annua surface, some go in and some don't. I made a couple really good par saves during the round that kept that bogey-free streak alive, but going to need some more to fall to catch these leaders.

**Q. So much talk this week because of the altitude and that being such a challenge, but a lot of players saying what you are as well, the battle is on the greens. What is the hardest thing about these putting greens, because quite a lot of players are being confused by them?**

**JORDAN SPIETH:** Staying patient. They're a soft poa annua surface so they get really bumpy. But they're a very flat surface where all the hole locations are, so it actually makes it more difficult than if there was a lot of slope, because you can have a putt that may actually break to the right edge and hit it again and it breaks to the left edge. So you have to be really patient on the greens, understand that sometimes it might not be you, it could be the greens, and move on. That's a pretty difficult for us to do sometimes.

**Q. Talking of patience, for you this season you're on the back of a nice finish of top-10 obviously at the Genesis. How hard is it for you to stay patient so far and where do you feel your game is now?**

**JORDAN SPIETH:** Game's progressing nicely, every week's gotten a little bit better, and around the greens I'm just continuing to make progress. I'm working hard on getting my putter back to the level I know it can be at. But my ball-striking's been very solid, we've handled the altitude very well, had fantastic distance control, so if that continues I believe the putts will start to fall.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JORDAN SPIETH:** I had three two-putt birdies and the other one was a good birdie on 18 from short range. I missed about a three-footer straight up the hill and I missed another four-footer left center for birdie. They both were bad strokes. They weren't the greens, they were me. But I did hit a lot of really good putts that I thought were either going to go in that bumped and stayed short or stayed straighter or broke. So yeah, I thought it was maybe a couple under the way I played, but it wasn't necessarily a super low one. But it's almost there, it feels good.

**Q. Is this course a little misleading because it's at elevation, effectively it's whatever, 7,000 yards, where you almost have the idea that you want to be aggressive, but if you look historically, 14 under won it last year?**

**JORDAN SPIETH:** Yeah, like I mentioned before the tournament, you want to pick a game plan and stick to it, but then you stand on some of these tee boxes and go, man, if I hit a good drive here, I have a chip shot. It's kind of hard to take a 5-iron out and hit it off the tee, we're not used to that. So yeah, it can be difficult sometimes. You feel like you need to make a lot of birdies, but I believe it will be somewhere around that again, around 14 under again. I think this course will firm up and it will be more and more difficult to make putts. The hole locations, they've done a great job of making them really tricky on pretty subtle slopes that are opposite of the slope of the green. That combination with poa annua makes it difficult to knock putts in from anywhere. So I see somewhere around 14 under unless someone goes crazy. Realistically, 9 under on the weekend is possible.

**Q. Do you feel like you're just maybe a day away, one good day from being where you want to be with your game?**

**JORDAN SPIETH:** Yeah, I think so. I really got the putter going at Riviera and I felt awesome over the putter the middle two rounds there, and Sunday started to have it going, too. There's been these like nine holes where it's showing, but to be able to put it together for three out of four rounds or whatever it needs to be to win a golf tournament, yeah, it's close, but there's still progress that needs to be made.