

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW**  
**May 6, 2018**



**JASON DAY (-12)**

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**JOHN BUSH:** We would like to welcome the 2018 champion of the Wells Fargo Championship, Jason Day. Jason, you made it interesting out there. You mentioned a lot this week the No. 12. Comment on what it means to get your 12th PGA TOUR victory.

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, it's special. I mean, obviously I think I've had some tough finishes before with wins and I remember specifically Bay Hill, but this was probably the toughest with how I was driving it out there, you know, hooking the ball in the water on 14 and not knowing what was going on, how Aaron was playing. If he was -- he birdied 14, but if he was going to birdie 15.

Trying to -- I hit a lot of great solid putts coming home, but being able to birdie 16 and 17 and just really give myself that two-shot buffer going into the last hole was huge. I wasn't trying to hole it -- I mean, I was trying to hole it, I wasn't worried. I was just trying to get that win.

**JOHN BUSH:** You move up to No. 2 in the FedExCup standings. I know with next week on the horizon that means a lot for you to try to win THE PLAYERS Championship for the second time in your career.

**JASON DAY:** Yes, and obviously THE PLAYERS is such a huge event. It feels like a major to me and I'm sure it feels like a major to most guys. It's really nice to be able to play pretty solid for the most part of the week. The short game is really nice, it's rounding out nicely for next week. I've obviously got a lot of work to do over the next few days. I'm going to enjoy tonight and obviously enjoy this win, but once tomorrow starts, it's got to focus back on THE PLAYERS and trying to win that one.

**Q. Jason, obviously 17 was a pivotal moment. You and Luke kind of looked at each other, the ball seemed like it was in the air for a long time.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. Were you worried that you were so juiced that maybe it was going to feed off the back?**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, 100 percent. I hit 7-iron there and it carried pretty much all the way on the downslope. I was trying to land it in the up-slope to kill it. The greens are really firm obviously. I think it was like 190-ish front edge and I hit my 7-iron usually 190. So I'm thinking I'm a little bit juiced, I'm going to hit a 7-iron. Obviously there's a little bit of slight down off the right. And when I hit it, it was on a cracking line, it was beautiful. And then it just had this massive bounce, hit on the downslope and fortunately hit the pin, which was

nice, and went to about two or three feet. Things like that is what you need to win golf tournaments along the lines of what happened on the last hole yesterday, staying up and being able to capitalize on that opportunity and hitting onto the green and making par.

Looking back on it, I think they're just key moments. I said earlier, they're just kind of building your character up. You get punched in the gut a couple of times out there with bogeying 13, bogeying 14, hitting in the water on 14. It feels like you're in the 10th round in a fight, and being able to get back on your feet and push forward was huge.

**Q. Jason, you've talked about this a lot. Why is being world No. 1 important to you?**

**JASON DAY:** Well, I think if you look around any room you're in, there's no one that's better than you, you know what I mean? Ever since I was a kid, even more so than like major championships, I always held No. 1 as many, you know, above those for some reason. Just in my mind, I thought that was the best thing ever.

Getting back to it, when you're walking around and there's so many golfers in this world and you know that there's no one better than you, that's a pretty awesome feeling. I know the feeling and what it felt like to be No. 1 and I know what I had to do to get there. This is a good kick in the right direction having two wins this kind of early in the season. My next step is to try to win a major this year. It would be nice to be able to capitalize on the good play, and if I can do that, hopefully the U.S. Open comes around nicely for me.

**Q. It seems almost appropriate you just got a bottle of water. Walking up the ninth fairway, you and your caddie seemed to have a little bit of a fun moment where you asked for water, he gave it to you and wouldn't let it go, and you slapped him in the shoulder?**

**JASON DAY:** No, no.

**Q. On the outside it seemed to break the tension a little bit given you were kind of sailing along and trying to win a golf tournament. What is the relationship between you two like and how vital was it down the stretch?**

**JASON DAY:** That was just me being a creep. I grabbed his hand instead of the bottle and I just held onto it until he made a face at me. Things like that, you have to keep it light. I know that because obviously I have two caddies and they're my best mates. One's I would say -- look at it this way. Rika, who wasn't on the bag this week, is a motivator. He's someone who's going to push you regardless. Luke is more of a professional. He's kind of quiet, but he's always getting things right. Not saying that Rika doesn't get things right, but he does a lot of good work. But it's just two different personalities.

With Luke, sometimes you've got to -- back and forth, you have to make things a little bit light. With Rika, I didn't even have to worry about that because we're always light out there. Things like that in that moment when I just hit one way right and hit a nice shot onto the

green, you need to break the tension because if you get stuck getting uptight and you start thinking about the things that have happened in the past or things that could possibly happen further along during the round can certainly derail the progress that you've made so far in the tournament.

So my biggest thing, especially after having Col on the bag for a long time, was that we were always professional. There was some good laughs out there, but it wasn't really like you had your best mate on the bag. I think that's the biggest thing for me, the biggest goal that I had in mind when I started working with these two guys was to make things a lot more light, especially in the final, latter part of the rounds because you're your own worst enemy out there. Especially today, even though I had my best mate on the bag, I was sitting there thinking, this is going to be -- it's happening again, I'm at the PGA last year, I don't get it over the line and now I'm sitting there thinking Aaron and he's going to come back and win the tournament, walk off failing. If you can somehow try and keep it light, get rid of those thoughts and keep pushing and keep fighting, hopefully you come out on the other side.

**Q. Jason, when you won THE PLAYERS two years ago, you were about as solid of a No. 1 as could be, it seemed like you might not ever lose it, but obviously you fell off from that point. This is your second win since. At one point in the process you seemed to suggest you weren't sure if you wanted to go through the ordeal sort of to get back there.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. You knew how hard it was.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah e I understand, yeah.

**Q. What's changed?**

**JASON DAY:** Obviously there's some distractions last year that kind of took my mind off it. I got burnt out being No. 1. It's very easy to get burnt out in a position that you're in the spotlight and you're not -- it's not so demanding, but it can be demanding at times. You've got to give a lot of time to a lot of people and sometimes you don't get a lot of time to yourself.

You know, last year was a good kick in the butt, not playing great and then seeing a lot of the other guys succeed. There was no jealousy there or envy. I know what it feels like to win and be in that position, and it was more of a disappointing, you know, emotion that came over me last year saying that I've got all this -- I feel like I've got all this talent. For me to not work as hard as I should be and, you know, because a career, even though it is long in golf, life goes fast. To be really that selfish in that mindset to think, okay, well, I'm burnt out and it's okay to have a year off, that really bugged me.

So I really kind of rededicated myself to getting back to No. 1. The biggest thing was to write

down goals and know that there's a process and steps towards that goal. So things like this week are a huge step in the right direction.

**Q. How much did the back issues play in any of that, though?**

**JASON DAY:** I've been battling back issues ever since 13, 13 years old. Working with Kevin Duffy, my trainer, guys up in Columbus; you know, Tom Berry and John Quint back home in Columbus, Ohio. My back issue has pretty much dwindled down to nothing now. I'm not worrying about my back anymore, not worrying about my shoulder or my knees or anything like that.

There was a moment where I was doing body building and it wasn't really good stuff. I looked good, but it doesn't pan out for me because my body started hurting. That was a step in the wrong direction. Now I'm not doing that stuff, I'm thinking about actual golf. I'm doing that to extend my longevity. So I'm happy with where my body is, I'm happy where my mind is. There's no stress in my life, and that's the biggest thing about playing professional golf is that you have to have a balance between personal life and professional life. That's when you play your best, I think.

**Q. You mentioned that you were aware on 14 and 15 kind of consider you stood. Did you happen to glance up at 16 before you hit that shot to the green to see that you and Aaron were tied at that point?**

**JASON DAY:** Yes, I knew that we were tied. I knew that we were tied after 15 when I missed that putt. I was sitting there because actually when I was walking down 15 I saw Aaron and he was way down there. I knew that he had only had a wedge in. So I was thinking if he birdies that, then I've got to birdie 15. Fortunately for me, he didn't birdie it. He's got two tough holes, it's going to be very difficult to try and make birdie on those two tough holes.

Being able to get a good drive down there and set myself up with a wedge in my hand was key. All the drivers beforehand were off in the trees somewhere, so it was great to be able to set myself up for a wedge shot and being able to capitalize on that opportunity was huge. And then going into 17 birdieing and then having that two-shot. But I knew exactly where I stood from the moment I stood on the first tee all the way to the moment I holed that last putt.

**Q. How does your game going into this year's PLAYERS compare to your game going into the 2016 PLAYERS?**

**JASON DAY:** It's not as good. Hitting-wise, it's not as good. I'm not saying that my short game is right there -- if not better than what it was going into, you know, the year that I won. The driving, I'm pretty happy with my driving. Obviously today wasn't great, but it's understandable with pressure and the game getting into your mind. But driving's pretty good, the irons need to -- I'm always hitting irons, irons, irons, irons.

It's not as good as it was back when I was No. 1 and going to the PLAYERS. But saying that, I could find something next week on the range and I might be feeling even better than what I was a couple years ago, two or three years ago.

**Q. You talked a lot about determination. What does that look like, is it early morning workouts, more hours practicing? Can you quantify what you've been doing with this determination?**

**JASON DAY:** I just am dedicating myself to the actual profession, I guess, as a whole. Waking up every morning and doing my exercises to know that if I do these, my shoulder doesn't hurt, my back doesn't hurt, warm me up properly, not missing any information, just kind of out earlier.

In Palm Springs right before I won Torrey, I was working nine to 10 hour days on the range and short game just to try to get it. Then I would go to the gym. I remember getting there early in the morning and leaving at 7:00 at night. After a good long day of practice, I hit the gym, then I'm doing my exercises, making sure I'm really doing everything I possibly can to rededicate myself to getting back to No. 1.

But that's like anything, you know? Anyone that's trying to be the best, they're going to do everything they possibly can. And it's not only on the golf course and what you do off the golf course with the practice, but it's also with the mental side of things, the physical side of things, and obviously the balance of life itself. That's huge because golf is very mentally tough. Everyone knows how tough it is, and if things aren't going right in your life off course, it feeds off into your game.

**Q. Tiger Woods was talking earlier today about you trying to get back to that No. 1 status. He mentioned the balance between golf life and family life and also how it's easier to win as a single young guy, it may be different when you have a family, and he said he's been giving you advice about that. What, if anything, has he said that's hit home with you?**

**JASON DAY:** Well, obviously with Tiger -- he texted me last night. He said, "Great playing yesterday, get this thing done." It's always good to have arguably the best player in the world text you on a Saturday night before the tournament and really kind of give you, you know, a good pump in the right direction.

But Tiger, he understands what it means. Hitting what you said, when you're young and single, you don't have a lot of responsibilities. When you have a family on the road, sometimes it's hard to sit down after the round and not hang out with the kids and know that I've just got to rest. But I have an amazing wife who actually understands what I'm trying to accomplish in my career and she understands that I need rest, but also it makes me feel guilty when I'm not sitting there playing with the kids as well.

So like you said, there's a fine balance between it, but little moments like this when I'm able to celebrate on the green with Dash, Lucy and Ellie and my whole team, that's what makes all the hard work and dedication to the game feel great.

But for Tiger, I've always looked up to him as a role model on the golf course. For him to be able to be there for me when things are good and bad is key in my career.

**Q. You talked a lot about the adversity from 13, 14 and on. I'm wondering where your head was at on 12 where you were in trouble, you scrambled and you made par at that point, you're three shots clear. You had to be feeling pretty good there.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, 12, I mean, I was thinking okay, if I can just get through 12. I mean, for the most part I didn't have a lot of control over my ball. I wasn't hitting a lot of fairways. I don't know what the stats were today, but they weren't good.

So every time I missed a fairway, I was sitting there going, okay, where can I miss it? If I do miss the green, where can I miss it? Where's the easiest up and down?

12, I hit it up there and I just blocked it a little bit but it ended up feeding into a nice area where I could hit a putter up there. 13, just yanked it long left. It wasn't that hard of a shot, to be honest. Coming back down that hill I just went straight underneath it. And then 14 was terrible.

But having that three-shot lead, I knew that okay, if I can get through 13, 14, birdie 15, then I'm in the clear because then I could just par home.

But I made it a lot more difficult than I probably should have there. But saying that, like anything, you have adversity, you get punched in the gut a couple times. They're character moments that if you can pull yourself up and keep fighting when sometimes you just want to quit.

**Q. Jason, what would you say is the biggest thing you learned about yourself today?**

**JASON DAY:** That I say a lot of negative stuff in my head when things are going back. I said earlier I was fighting demons out there because when you're not hitting it good, it just feels like the life is getting sucked out of you. Just feels like you don't have -- the confidence is starting to dwindle, but you know that you've just got to keep pushing. I know that I have a lot of fight in me. When I really want to put my mind to it, I know that I can fight and keep pushing regardless of how bad things are going. So that's the biggest thing that I know is that my mental strength out there is actually quite strong.

It's not up to the level of like a Tiger or anything like that, but just being able to keep myself around. Somehow getting it done when things aren't going great, because anyone can win hitting 15 greens and having six birdies and no bogeys and playing great, but the moments where you win and you don't have your greatest stuff is the moment that you learn the most.

I learnt a lot about myself, but I learnt more about how much I actually wanted to get back to No. 1 and how much this meant was a good kick in the right direction. But the adversity and the determination of trying to get that win was huge today.

**Q. By my calculations, and I could be wrong, but I think you were 3 under on the Green Mile for the week?**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, I think so.

**Q. Two of them coming today. What is it about that closing stretch and what was it about it today, was it the pressure of knowing you needed to make birdies to winner it?**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, definitely. Like I said to Luke, I was going to birdie one of the last three holes, ended up birdieing two of the last three holes, which was nice. At the start of the week you're sitting here, I can tell you exactly the holes I wanted to birdie. I want to birdie 7, I want to birdie 8, I want to birdie 10, I want to birdie 14, I want to birdie 15. They're like the holes that you need to really take advantage of. If you can kind of splutter in some birdies here and there, that's great, but the rest you've got to just hang on.

Playing the Green Mile 3 under was big. I mean, that's huge to be able to do that because a lot of guys, I mean that 17th hole is not easy. It looks really tiny from 220 yards away. But 16's difficult, but you have to have a good drive there. Being able to finish off strong, and that's what I'm probably the most happy about is when you're on call to do something good and you pull it off, that is key. To be clutch like that, and it's a lot of heart. It was probably a good thing that I watched LeBron's buzzer beater this morning instead of last night. That was awesome to watch this morning, so hopefully I can just pass that along in my game today.

**JOHN BUSH:** Congratulations once again, Jason Day.

**JASON DAY:** Thanks.