

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
29 November 2018

JAKE McLEOD



Q. Jake, great round.

JAKE McLEOD: Thank you.

Q. 6 under par and leading. Talk us through it.

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, got off to a flying start. What was I, 4 under through about six holes or something like that. Sort of played okay through the middle, nothing great, made a few good up-and-downs. Birdied the last, which is nice to shoot 6. Yeah, it was good.

Q. Obviously good form, third place finish. What did you do on the week off to get the momentum going?

JAKE McLEOD: I didn't do much. I had a few days off at the start of the week and then just played a few holes with my mates later in the week and tried to take their money, and yeah, it was good.

Q. (No microphone.)

JAKE McLEOD: I think I won one, lost one, yeah.

Q. Have you seen plenty of supporters out here on the course?

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, there are a few today, it was nice. Yeah, definitely have the weekend, family and friends will come out, so it will be good to see. It will be fun.

Q. You've been on a tear. Being so young and sort of making your way in the game, how do you make sure you keep a level head, particularly with the Order of Merit, all that can come with that at the end of the week?

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, obviously I was pretty nervous starting off, but starting like that settles nerves. Yeah, I've been playing well, I've just got to keep on doing what I've been doing. Anything can happen. If one of the other guys wins, obviously they win. So I just go do what I can do and see what happens at the end of it.

Q. Can you talk us through 10, Jake, and I guess how you felt moving to the tee and getting in the way, but also the three shots you hit?

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, so I'm always very nervous on the first tee.

Q. Always?

JAKE McLEOD: Always, no matter what, yeah.

Q. Sort of the enormity of leading the Order of Merit didn't weigh in?

JAKE McLEOD: Not really, no. No matter what it is, yeah. I hit an okay drive just up the left side sort of just short of the left trap there. I think I had -- what did I have, like 120 in. Hit a little 9-iron to about 20 feet and sort of putting up and over the slope. I sort of hit it a little bit firm, hit the back of the cup and dropped in, so it was a good start. It was pretty lucky.

Q. And when you continue that with a few more birdies early on, does your mindset kind of change, (inaudible) or do you kind of dial it back at all?

JAKE McLEOD: No, I sort of try and -- well, I knew obviously I was hitting it nicely out there and putting really good as well, especially on that front nine. So I just tried to make as many birdies as possible. I got pretty slow through the middle of the round, I sort of missed a few greens. Yeah, I sort of chipped and holed a few good 6- to 10-footers today to save par, which is nice.

Q. I know you have a ways to go this week, but is there one thing you can identify over the past three weeks that's tweaked for you? What's the thing that you think is the bigger factor why you think you've become at the top of the leaderboard as opposed to in the middle?

JAKE McLEOD: I'm honestly not too sure. The whole game's been pretty good and I've been -- I've seen a new psychologist six months to a year ago now and just the things we've been working on's been really good, so I think that's definitely helped a lot.

Q. Can you give us a bit of an insight to that, what you kind of talk about women?

JAKE McLEOD: I can't tell you my secrets, man. No, just accepting how I'm going to feel, like I can't change my thoughts and all that sort of stuff. I just need to stay really focused on the shot and have a bit of a laugh out there and just stay relaxed. Well, not relaxed because I'm nervous, but you know what I mean, just get on with it.

Q. You would have felt that because you've been playing lots of high pressure golf, but this month being at the top of the leaderboard, do you switch off easier now and not be so, I guess, mentally fatigued?

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, definitely, definitely, you're right. And I'm starting to feel more comfortable out on the first tee as well. I think at the Aussie Open I was -- I felt really good out there. I think you just sort of forget about that. You're still nervous, but you forget, so it's pretty good.

Q. How do you switch off, like do you go home now and --

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, I'll go home, put the feet up and I've got dinner with a couple mates down here tonight. It will be nice, probably go to Burleigh somewhere and have a steak or something.

Q. Isn't there an ice cream shop in Burleigh that you go to at the Vic Open?

JAKE McLEOD: There's a good one there.

Q. Leish mentioned that the greens were quite a bit quicker today. How did you find the adjustment, I guess, from the last two days?

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, definitely I thought, yeah, the green speeds were a little bit quicker than the practice green, to be honest. Especially I found out on that first hole. Lucky it hit the back of the cup, otherwise it was probably going 10-feet by.

So yeah, sort of adjusted pretty quickly. I saw a couple of the other guys, like Matty was just rolling them a little bit past. I just had to adjust a little bit, but I was getting them on line early, so it was nice to roll a few in.

Q. Do you feel like that's helped guys, talking about the grain and really used to it, but when they roll like that, are they more predictable? Do you feel more confident they're going to stay on line?

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, growing up in Queensland's obviously a bit of an advantage with me with the grain. Out there it's pretty grainy. Yeah, I sort of -- I kind of know what it's going to do, which is nice. I feel the other guys sort of don't really see with the slopes and the grain could be going the other way, it could be straight. But yeah, I don't know, just got to hit it on the line and see what it does, yeah.

Q. Jake, was there a particular up-and-down save on that middle part of the round that really kept the momentum going?

JAKE McLEOD: Yeah, on 8 and 9. I missed it left on 8 in the rough, had to flop it up and hit an okay chip to about nine, 10 feet and holed that down the hill. And then hit a poor tee shot up 18 and hit it left. Hit a pretty good shot to get it over there, but made up-and-down from the left side, holed maybe like a 12-footer there to save par. It was a bit of a bonus.

Q. You've got the yellow cap and the yellow shirt. What's it been like out there for all the pros on this which is Yellow for Jarrod Day?

JAKE McLEOD: It's been nice to see a lot of the pros get around it. It's for a great cause and I think we've -- I mean, I played John Senden's day on Tuesday for Jarrod, Jarrod's

family, so hopefully I think it's booked out now, which is good. So everyone's getting on that, so hopefully we can raise some money.