

JONATHAN BYRD (-6)

Q. A lot of fortitude, intestinal fortitude going out in 38 and then flipping it around with that beautiful 29. What changed so dramatically from the first nine to the second nine?

JONATHAN BYRD: I started off like first five holes and was playing really steady. It's tough out here in this wind. I was just hitting it in the middle of the green, having good two-putts.

Then I hit a driver off the deck on 15 and plugged it in a palm tree and made double, so that kind of lit a fire. I got pretty frustrated at that point because I feel like I was playing well. And then 18, I drove it left in the hazard, made bogey there, so turned in 2 over.

I really just on the front nine just tried to stay positive and I just started -- I chipped in twice. I made a long putt on 1, probably 20 feet, and then the last three holes I was apologizing to my playing partners because I made an 80-footer and probably two 40-footers. But hey, that happens. You never know when it's coming. I tell my son that all the time, you never know when the good golf's coming, so you've just got to keep fighting.

Q. That's right. We all dream of going on streaks like that. For you mentally, where are you at when you start rolling in putt after putt?

JONATHAN BYRD: I think when you get it going, you've just got to give everything a chance. I chunked a chip on a par 4 and had a really tough chip coming back and I made it. And then coming in I just kept saying, give these chips, give these putts a chance, you never know when they might go in, and fortunately I had some really good reads.

Q. I want to ask you real quickly about Bryson Nimmer. We'll be watching him, he was quite the story yesterday, a fellow Clemson grad. I understand that you've helped him a bit with his game. What do you think about him and his game in general and his potential future?

JONATHAN BYRD: I wouldn't say I've helped him, I would say my brother and Larry Penley at Clemson; my brother, Jordan Byrd, have probably helped him along the way. He's a good player and he might have an advantage this week, you know, just getting -- he's already won a golf tournament down in Puerto Rico last week. When you start playing well, you just kind of keep it rolling.

I played with him Tuesday. He's got a really solid game, it looks really simple. It doesn't look like he can hit a bad shot. When you start playing like that, the game starts to get a little easier. And I just told him have fun this week, enjoy yourself and you've got nothing to

lose, so play aggressive.

Q. Well, if he plays well today, maybe you guys will be paired together on the weekend. That would be fun.

JONATHAN BYRD: It would be fun. I have Phillip Mollica from Clemson caddying for me this week. DJ Trahan's playing good, so it's nice to see some Clemson guys up there.

Q. So, Jonathan, golf's obviously a game of momentum and you had a lot of that on that front nine, which was your second nine. Talk a little bit about that 29 and the streak you went on there for nine holes.

JONATHAN BYRD: Yeah, I think my caddie and I were talking, we came off the last hole, we were like, if I hadn't stuck it in the palm tree and made double on my first nine and bogeyed a par 5, I probably wouldn't have had as good a nine because I made the turn kind of hot, you know, mad at myself. But, you know, the front's got a few more scoring opportunities. The par 5s are a little more reachable, or definitely reachable. You just never know.

I wasn't thinking I could go out there and shoot 29, I wasn't thinking about making those long putts. I just kind of kept just trusting my reads, trusting my clubs and just tried to react as much as I possibly could. Fortunately, was able to free it up a little bit on the front nine.

Q. And you said earlier that you don't really know when the good golf is coming but you might as well just roll with it. There were some long putts, chip-ins as well. How were you rolling with it on that front nine?

JONATHAN BYRD: Well, I mean, I eagled the par 5. Let's see, I don't even know what hole it is, maybe 6 or 5. No. 4, I chipped in for par, and looking like I could make double if I didn't hit a good chip there and ended up making par. And the next hole I hit a driver -- I hit three drivers off the deck today, that doesn't happen a whole lot. But on 5 I hit a great drive up there on the fringe and chipped it with a 9-iron and made that.

Tommy Gainey, who's just really fun to play with the last couple days, called me Seve the last two days. He was amping it up on the last three or four holes and I was apologizing because it's nothing worse when you're not playing great and somebody's making 40-footers on you.

Q. How are you feeling health-wise? You seem to have a little bit of a limp?

JONATHAN BYRD: I've got plantar fasciitis on my left heel. I don't know if that's just old-man disease. I used to make fun of my dad for having it, but it hurts so bad and I'm limping, it's bothering me quite a bit. Yesterday probably the last nine and today probably the last four holes.

Q. Toughed through it, though?

JONATHAN BYRD: I usually play good when I'm sick or I'm injured, so maybe that's why.

Q. And last thing, DJ Trahan's pretty close to the top of the lead, obviously you played pretty well here today, and Bryson we talked about the other day. Something about Clemson and Puerto Rico maybe?

JONATHAN BYRD: Maybe. We're in the same category, past champion category, and we're fighting for our lives in that category trying to have a good week. He's played good in the fall and the starts he's gotten, and I've played pretty well. We need to play well, so that's why we're hopefully playing good this weekend and see where it leaves us.