

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
July 17, 2019



JOSH TEATER

JACKIE SERVAIS: Please welcome Josh Teater to the media center, or I should say welcome home, I guess. How does it feel to be back and playing in your hometown?

JOSH TEATER: Thank you. Yeah, it's great to be here. Any trip to Lexington is a great trip. Always home. I know the golf course, so looking forward to getting out there this afternoon for nine holes in this pro-am.

JACKIE SERVAIS: You've played the event now twice, this will be your third time. Probably haven't finished as high as you would have liked. What is it about this course that you maybe struggled with in the past, or how does that help you move forward to this week?

JOSH TEATER: Yeah, you know, last year the conditions were tough. I think it was just a long week and kind of fatigue may have played a role in it. But I was in position after two days and I'm going to draw on that. Just kind of move forward, you know. Try to take more advantage of the opportunities I get.

JACKIE SERVAIS: You got to spend the day at the University of Kentucky at the basketball with your son. Can you just talk a little bit about that and how much that meant to you to be able to experience that with him?

JOSH TEATER: Yeah, you know, Chris Willard and the crew down there were -- Coach Payne, and they just welcomed us in, my family and I, Ashley. You know, I lost in three games of H-O-R-S-E, which I'm not proud of, but we're going to do better on the golf course, for sure. It was awesome to see everything they have there and what they go through, just the greatness of the UK basketball.

Q. Josh, how did the idea of visiting UK basketball earlier today come about? Was it your idea or his idea?

JOSH TEATER: Well, it was kind of John Bush here kind of brought it up to me a couple weeks ago, from the Tour. When we come into towns, we kind of like to highlight something in that town. I had a 4:44 pro-am tee time and we connected with them and saw when they had some openings and it just happened to work out today. We went down there and spent about an hour and a half or two just kind of seeing what they had and playing a couple games of H-O-R-S-E.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about the three-week stretch coming up?

JOSH TEATER: Yeah, for sure. You know, I'm sitting I think in like 180, so I'm secure for

the Korn Ferry Finals. I don't have anything to lose in these three weeks. I'm approaching them a little bit differently maybe than I have the last couple months, but I'm just going to kind of go out there and I wouldn't say freewheel it, but, you know, a little bit looser and just try to do the best on every shot and not get too caught up on a bad shot that I might hit and see where I end up.

Q. Have there been times during the season where you got down on yourself?

JOSH TEATER: I think, you know, all of us, you know, when we hit a bad shot, we can kind of dwell on it too much. See kind of a spiral a little bit within that round or a couple holes. As we know, each hole and each shot's so big.

But yeah, I mean, I've seen maybe a little trend over the last couple months where I've started off well and kind of fell off in the late -- into the round. So I'm going to try to be a little bit more energized. Took it easier at the beginning of this week, I plan to do that next week as well. Try to be fully energized come Saturday and Sunday.

Q. Josh, you had the biggest galleries last season. How's that feel playing in front of big crowds? Does that make a difference?

JOSH TEATER: Yeah, I really like that, you know. I kind of rally behind that with people kind of enjoying every shot out there, and just seeing friendly faces, people that I remember from all the way back in middle school and high school and family and walking around. You've got to walk near the ropes sometimes giving some people high fives and maybe even seeing a former college teammate, so yeah.

Q. So the noise doesn't bother you?

JOSH TEATER: Yeah, no, we want more roars. As many as we can get, yes, sir.

Q. Josh, there are a couple of University of Kentucky young guys who are just starting out. You've been doing this a while, but surely you remember back to those days when you were just beginning. Any advice that you would give them?

JOSH TEATER: Yeah, you know, I mean, they're in a position that I wasn't in. I didn't play my first Tour event probably until four years after I graduated college. So they've got a great opportunity here.

I would say, you know, don't make too much of it. Don't put too much pressure on yourself, enjoy it as much as you can.

You know, we've seen what Chip McDaniel's done this year with Monday qualifying and got himself in a good position. I think he's a great example for the guys that are maybe playing in it the first time or second time. It's just going to be a learning experience however you play. You play great, you're going to learn something; you play bad, you'll learn something.

And you'll look back and you'll be thankful you're here.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Awesome. Thank you for your time, Josh. Good luck this week.

JOSH TEATER: Thank you.