

JORDAN SPIETH (-6)

Q. If you went into the stats that Jordan put together putting-wise in his first round, just 23 total. When you get in that type of rhythm, what's it like to keep it going?

JORDAN SPIETH: You want putts for birdie. You want to be hitting greens in regulation. I did a pretty good job of that on the back nine until the last hole, but really two bad swings today kept it from being my lowest round on the PGA TOUR. There's a lot of good in that. Very pleased with the position I'm in after round one, like where my game is trending tee to green, and then I'm just going to (inaudible).

Q. (Inaudible) for you on 12 with a bogey?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I mean, I would have gone from three to one under there. You're in a position where you want to try to force things and that was big. I didn't know it at the time, I thought it was just another stroke. But on the next hole, instead of hitting driver, I hit a 3-wood and ended up making a couple birdies and an eagle coming in just hitting the smart shots. Sometimes bogey saves are massive. Hopefully, the one on 18 will give some momentum for tomorrow.

Q. Seems like six years was a blink of an eye since you finished runner-up here. Clearly you have some comfort level around this place. What is it?

JORDAN SPIETH: Well, I think it's a phenomenal golf course. I think you have to work the ball both ways off the tee and into the greens to feed it to the pins, and then the greens are pretty diabolical. You've got greens with really, really fast Bermudagrass with a lot of slope, so putts that you don't really see these kind -- this kind of break or speed but for a few weeks a year. Augusta comes to mind as far as the way they putt. So I like that kind of feel aspect on the greens. My speed control was on today and therefore it led to a good putting round.

Q. Finally, the two swings that you mentioned (inaudible.)

JORDAN SPIETH: Just timing, I just got real quick. I've been doing that for a year and a half or so. It was only two today, which is pretty good considering it's been five or six I usually get away with per round. It's getting better. I know they're still in the bag right now, so I've got a little bit of scar tissue left, unfortunately, but it's certainly trending in the right direction. Shooting low scores even having felt like I didn't really have my best stuff tee to green is certainly a bonus. If I can improve on that, I'll keep the ball in play the next three days and hopefully have a chance.

Q. Jordan, six birdies and an eagle on the card, but you make a 15-footer for bogey at 12 and a 21-footer at 18. How big was that for you today?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, the one on 12 was big. I went to the next hole and may have pulled out driver and instead went to a 3-wood. Was able to hit the fairway, get it in there tight and get the stroke back. So I actually played those two holes even par.

When I got to the 14th hole I thought that was kind of par for the course. You just never know at the time, just every stroke matters the same, none's more important than others.

But the save on 18 was certainly nice. I thought that I was way short right and had to chip in to make double, so when I got up there and had a putt at it, I was just trying to get the right speed. And five feet to go, it looked really good, just like they did all day.

Q. What do you take from a round like today, because you mentioned your putting, you were just spectacular with that?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, greens in regulation, like I mentioned prior to the tournament, is going to be an important stat for me right now with the way my putting feels. I feel like I'm getting on greens that I really putt well on, a grass type I putt well on and the slopes that are here. So it's just about giving myself as many opportunities as I can.

As far as greens in regulation go, I was probably on the lower end of guys 5 under or higher, so certainly room for improvement the next few days, but just trying to give myself looks.

Q. Jordan, you tied your low round for the season. Does this bring you as close as you've been for a while?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I think so. Like I've said, it's trending the right direction. I think it's still a week or two away as far as the control, full control off the tee and into the greens, but I'm starting to have kind of the same feels that I remember having when I struck the ball the best. It kind of feels that way through the swing. Then I'll get a couple where I get quick and it still is a bit off, but it is close.

Yeah, it's really nice when I'm putting it as well as I did, that makes the rest of the game pretty easy, I get away with some bad shots. But tightening that up tee to green and I'll have a chance to win a number of events going forward if I can kind of clean up that tee to green game.

Q. You said you only had two real bad ones today. You hit three really good ones right after the bad one.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, that birdie with the second ball is nice. I look at the card and I don't really think of it as an out-of-bounds ball, I just feel like I actually stole something coming in. So hopefully that's momentum for tomorrow. Any putt that goes in, obviously the

hole starts to look bigger. The hole was looking pretty big today.

But I should have just played that, you know, the fade off the left side off the tee instead of trying to go to that draw with a driver trying to be the hero. So it's hard to cut it enough to get into trouble if you line up left there, so that's certainly the plan the next few days.

Q. Jordan, when you look at how you're putting this season stacks up to what you've done in 2015 or 2017, is that a source of confidence or a source of frustration seeing that you haven't gotten as much out of it this year?

JORDAN SPIETH: Oh, it's definitely confidence. I went from like 200th last year to the top-10. That's a pretty massive turnaround, and I needed it. I mean there were times that I just went to sleep not having any idea what was going on with the putter, knowing that the next day was going to be a struggle on the greens no matter what, just that kind of stuff.

So I know that as I'm climbing out of a similar type of situation on my long game right now, I know that there will be a time when I kind of look back and laugh at it, so that helps me stay patient with it, continue the process. There's certainly some parallels to it.