

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
January 23, 2020



JORDAN SPIETH (-2)

Q. Birdie on 18, how big was that to get something out of the day and get some momentum going into the North Course tomorrow?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, you know, my previous birdie was No. 9 and I felt like I had quite a few good looks at it on the difficult back nine, so it's always nice to close with a birdie. I feel like I kind of gave one back I didn't need to on 17, so to kind of capitalize there, shoot 2 under, that's -- to be within four going to the North Course is nice. I know there was a 6 on the South today, but all in all, you're trying to kind of get to -- 2 under I'd take every day I played the South Course, especially when that kind of marine layer kicks in, it's a little colder.

Q. We started off playing a Farmers and ended up at an Open Championship there for a while there when that rolled in. What's the recipe for tomorrow? Find a few more fairways, do you think that will maybe find a 5, 6, 7 under out there on the North side playing from the short grass?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah. Actually, I think I hit a lot of fairways today, I probably hit 11 or 12 out of 14. I felt really good about the way I drove the ball, especially given that was where I'm trying to improve off of last season. These fairways are tough to hit, so obviously the North Course being a little bit more gettable, fairways are going to be important.

For me, it's really just greens in regulation. If I miss a fairway but I'm missing it in the right spots, I can still, you know, attack these greens given they're softer. Right now just give myself enough putts. I feel good with the putter blade in my hand and the goal would be to try and shoot around 4 tomorrow.

Q. Just opening comments on how you felt it went?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, felt good. I was kind of -- came off of yesterday with a little momentum the last kind of nine holes I played in the pro-am. Prior to that I was kind of still searching a little bit. I really felt like I trusted what we've been working on today, which was going to be the most difficult thing; if it feels uncomfortable, still to trust it.

I felt like I drove the ball really well on a difficult South Course. And then that was about as long as I ever remember playing that golf course with that marine layer kicking in and it just being very soft, the fairways being very soft. So 2 under's a good score on that course any day.

Q. You said earlier this week you kind of felt anxious to get going again playing. You

hadn't played since China. Did you have that same feeling when you teed off today?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, first hole, it felt like the first hole of a major. It's been a while. I was anxious to get going. It was nice to hit a couple good shots into the first. I missed a couple putts inside 10 feet to start, but then really started to get it going there when one fell on six and I putted the ball well from there on in.

I'm proud of the greens in regulation stat today. Felt like I hit a lot of fairways and greens. It's just difficult to make birdies, like I mentioned, on the South Course. Tough to get at some of those pins. I felt like the front nine was gettable. The back nine, every pin was the hardest pin. We'll go over to the North -- looks like some guys were able to get 4, 5, 6 under -- and try and be patient over there.