

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 24, 2020



JASON DAY (-4)

Q. We'll talk about today, but before we get to the overall first two days, what clicked coming down the stretch there for you to get it in the house the way you did?

JASON DAY: I didn't do much scoring, especially over the last I would say the first 27 holes was kind of just tinkering along. Then I just said I've got to be patient. That was a nine where you can get things going, especially getting away from the cliff's edge and a couple of the holes on the back side that are kind of tricky to a certain degree, which was our front side. It was nice because once you get to -- you get past 18, 2 and 3, then it's kind of a free run if you get yourself in position, so I was very pleased with how things progressed come in.

Q. You got some momentum now, we'll head to the South Course. How do you feel physically and how do you feel with that finish? Do you feel like you're eager to get to the first tee tomorrow?

JASON DAY: Yeah, definitely. My body feels great. I think the way that I'm hitting the ball, I shouldn't say I'm surprised but I'm surprised with the little preparation that I did have coming in, especially being on a ball count last week and not being able to putt as much. I feel like I'm driving it and hitting my irons pretty well, and I feel like the short game's starting to come around.

Q. I was with you a little bit yesterday, didn't notice what you were hitting off the tee. Today I recognized that you were hitting, is that an M5 or M6?

JASON DAY: M6, yeah.

Q. Have you put the new one in the bag yet?

JASON DAY: I still -- I'm still tinkering. I have the SIM. I went from the SIM Max to the SIM and I'm just going to keep tinkering around until I can get it where I feel like I'm very comfortable like I'm hitting my M6. It shouldn't be too long, it was just a really quick turnaround. I got it Monday and that's too soon to kind of put it in play.

Q. What was the main motivation for the fight back today from yesterday?

JASON DAY: On the north side you can obviously get a score. I feel like today's conditions are a little bit easier than what we had yesterday, and the key holes are just trying to get through 18, 2 and 3 even par and then you can kind of get things rolling.

I unfortunately just didn't really score that great on the front side, which we started on the

back side. I just told myself to be patient, let things go. Once I got past 3 you can kind of start to get things going, especially with the holes that are going back and forth, a lot of short holes, a lot of wedges in your hand. Fortunately, I got three nice ones coming in.

Q. Five of the last seven times (inaudible) you won. Does that give you confidence as well going forward?

JASON DAY: No, it definitely does. The only concern I have is how soft the greens are out there on the South. When you have softer conditions, if the greens are firmer, then the course plays tougher. It will be interesting to see what kind of temperatures we have over the weekend to see how far the ball's going to be flying because that obviously plays a key on what you're going to do out there.

Then for me personally, I've just got to kind of chip away at it. I can't really force anything out there, especially I mean, the south side is very, very difficult, U.S. Open course. I'm eager and excited to get out on the first tee tomorrow.

Q. When you look at the leaderboard, there's familiar faces that seem to always do well here, including yourself. Is it a matter of just hitting the ball far or is it a little more nuanced?

JASON DAY: It definitely helps to hit the ball far. It's surprising how narrow the fairways actually look when you're standing on the tee, especially with some of the tee changes that we've had on the south side, the lengthening of the golf course. Definitely felt like it played a lot longer yesterday and you've just got to get yourself in position. It's really, you're fighting an uphill battle if you're just missing the fairways here and you can't get the ball around the greens. Once you get on to the greens and you start putting on poa annua and it starts jumping around a little bit, especially in the afternoon, that makes things a little bit more difficult. So it will be interesting to see what the grounds staff and what the PGA TOUR actually do for the course setup over the next two days. If they kind of let things dry out a little bit and make things a little bit harder, obviously if that happens, the scores will come back.

Q. How much better did you play today than yesterday, or was it just the course --

WILLIE MACK: No, I played a lot better today, I think. I couldn't score to save myself yesterday and I made some nice birdies coming home to salvage a 1-over par, and today I kind of kept the ball in play and got myself -- you know, those key putts, especially on 2 and 4. So there was some up-and-downs that I really needed to keep the momentum rolling and I got those going today.