

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
July 14, 2021

JASON DUFNER



HALEY PETERSON: Afternoon, everyone. We are back here at the media room. We are joined with Jason Dufner here at the Barbasol Championship.

Jason, first of all, thank you for taking the time to join us. You'll be making your second start here. What's it like being back here?

JASON DUFNER: Yeah, I like the event. I played in '19, had a pretty good finish. Like the golf course, like where I'm staying at in Lexington, some good food there so when you're not on the golf course you can engage in some of the local activities here in Lexington.

I think the golf course is pretty straightforward, it's not real tricky. More than likely it will be pretty soft, scores will be pretty low, so you kind of know what you're in for for the week. Low scores will probably be pretty plentiful out here this week and I feel good with where I'm at. I came off a good finish last week, so I'm looking forward to hopefully building some momentum here at Barbasol.

Q. What are some of those favorite food joints and sights in Lexington?

JASON DUFNER: There's a good sushi restaurant close by to where I'm at and there's a Whole Foods right there. Pretty basic stuff, nothing spectacular.

Q. Last time out was two years ago, but you had a top-20 finish. You said low scores are seen here at the course, so what can you expect out of this week? It will be kind of a birdie-fest out here?

JASON DUFNER: Yeah, I think it will be pretty similar. I think last year or two years ago the golf course was a little bit firmer on the fairways, greens were very receptive. I think this week fairways so far are pretty soft. We had some pretty big rains this weekend, early part of the week, possibly some more weather coming in later in the week so the course is going to be soft. There's going to be a lot of scoring opportunities. I think you'll have to be in the low to mid 20s again to win, which is challenging in itself to shoot that low. A lot of great players here and the field will bunch up. Last year, two years ago, I think I shot 18 under, which was 6 back and I ended up finishing 18th. There won't be a lot of separation, you're going to have to be on the gas pedal every day and try and shoot 6 under every day to have a chance for the title.

Q. You mentioned that the course may be kind of soft. We're expecting some weather, so what does that do to your game?

JASON DUFNER: Yeah, that's hard to -- that's kind of something we adjust to on the fly when we're out there. You get little pockets of rain. Obviously when the rain comes in, we hope for them to pull us off because that makes it much more challenging, but if you do have to play in the rain, it can be very situational depending on what hole you're on, what situation you might be in on the golf course. That's just something you've got to kind of use experience to get you through what works best for you and hopefully you're on some of those holes that are a little easier to manage in that type of weather.

Q. You're entering this week with your best finish so far this season from John Deere Classic, another top-20, so how's your game feeling entering this week?

JASON DUFNER: Yeah, good. I played really well last week, was really happy with my ball-striking, everything from tee to green. Didn't quite hole as many putts as I would like. I think last week 19 under won, so in order for me to stay competitive, I need to continue what I did with my ball-striking last week and figure out how to hole maybe one or two more putts, probably one putt every nine holes that I play, then we'll see how that stacks up.

Q. We're coming upon the final few events of the regular season. How important is it to get a good finish this week?

JASON DUFNER: Yeah, it's important. I want to play because I played well last week, so keep some of that momentum. I'm going to play next week in Minnesota as well, so I'm trying to use these three events to gain some momentum, start feeling a little bit better about my game. Kind of hard this week to make up a lot in the FedExCup points because we're playing for less points, but it's a tournament I'm trying to win, I'm here to compete, to win. That exempt status would be great, 250 points we're playing for this week would be great, but more than anything, using this week to get competitive, see where my game's at, keep rolling toward the last couple events this year.

Q. You're coming off John Deere last week, obviously here, then 3M next week. You kind of have a string of events all in a row.

JASON DUFNER: Yeah, I don't really have a choice right now. I think I'm about 165th on the points, so I'll be playing every event that's left on the schedule trying to figure out a way to get into the Playoffs and see how that goes.

HALEY PETERSON: That is all the questions we have. Thank you for taking the time to join and best of luck this week.

JASON DUFNER: Perfect, thanks.