

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
January 26, 2022



STEPHAN JAEGER (-7)

Q. Stephan, nicely played out there, bogey-free 7-under-par 65. What was the challenge on the North Course today? Obviously no bogeys, but what was challenging out there for you today?

STEPHAN JAEGER: You've got to hit it in the fairways on the right holes. I think you can kind of get away with it on a couple holes that maybe are not as long or you've got a little wedge in or par 5s and I did a good job of that. I hit the fairways on the hard, long holes and got a couple good breaks in the rough. You could be five feet from it, you could be very deep and you could have a perfect lie. So definitely had some luck, but putted well, kind of drove it well, which has kind of been kind of what I've been working on and yeah, it's great to see. I'm really happy.

Q. You made your way back to the Tour after the super season on the Korn Ferry Tour with some great playing. What did you learn the first time you were out here that you're going to use during this season?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I think you just got to get comfortable. I think I've always taken a couple years to do that on any level. You know, I want to get to a point where I feel as comfortable out here as I did on the Korn Ferry Tour and game-wise I think it's week to week for us, you know, so it doesn't compare. But just feeling like you belong, feeling like you're comfortable and that's the biggest thing for me.

Q. Kind of a unique situation, you've got four guys that went to the same high school in Chattanooga on Tour, yourself, Luke List, Harris English and Keith Mitchell. What's it like, the fact that you guys are all on Tour at the same time now?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I was in school and actually on the same team with two of them, so it's pretty cool. Luke was a little older than us. Baylor School in Chattanooga, they've produced some talent over the years. I've known those guys for -- now I'll age myself -- 15 years. It's just great to see everybody out here. Keith has won, Harris has kind of resurged a little bit on his good play and Luke's been out here for a long time, so I'm just trying to keep up with those guys so they don't give me any crap later in our lives.

Q. Do they help you at all? Do you seek advice from them?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yes and no. I mean, I'll ask Harris every once in a while. He's been out here so long and he obviously played Ryder Cup last year, he's probably one of the guys that if I have something like just, hey, how do I do this or why did I feel this way, he's the guy I would go to. Keith and I obviously are pretty similar in age as well. I wish everybody the

best of success and hopefully we'll all be in the final group Sunday at some point.

Q. This is your third start here. How do you think the two previous starts that you made here helped you with your performance today?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, honestly, La Jolla, San Diego has always kind of been on top of my list on just kind of places to go. I love this place. Anytime you kind of feel a little ungrateful, you kind of look left and the ocean's right there.

It's just kind of -- I think Jon Rahm said it a couple years ago, it's like his happy place, and I feel the same way. Obviously I haven't performed as well as he did here, but it helps to kind of feel comfortable in a place and like the scenery and like the towns that you're staying in. That's a big one for me. Golf course-wise I think you kind of know what you're getting here. You've got to hit fairways, you've got to hit greens and you've got to put yourself in the right position. It's a pretty straightforward but very, very hard golf course either way.

Q. You played the North today. Does your strategy change at all with the South or do you do anything slightly different?

STEPHAN JAEGER: It's a different golf course, so there are some different holes that need to be played well. Like I said earlier, I think I made -- I hit the fairway on the hard holes here on the North. On the easy ones you can kind of get away with a squirrelly one every once in a while. South is I think overall just maybe a little bit tougher, so continue hitting good balls off the tee and making some putts. That's pretty much the strategy all week.