

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 17, 2022

ZACH JOHNSON (-3)



Q. Zach, chilly day out there. If we can just get an opening comment on your round in some colder conditions.

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, I told my caddie, I guess we were like 15, 16, 17th hole, whatever it was, just hitting the middle of the clubface is a feat today, I thought. I think it was a trying day just to stay -- well, try to stay warm and try to stay loose. Someone of my age group, turning behind the golf ball is always difficult, so when it's cold out, it's never easy.

Had a couple mishaps there in the middle of my round that kind of -- well, one in particular that otherwise I would have played really well, I think. I mean, I had a good number today, but it could have been a lot better given the way I struck it. It was just hard, it was hard to putt, it was hard to hit shots. I think any round under par is good today. I know there's some low ones, there's always going to be low ones, so great test. The setup was great, the guys did a great job. Love it here.

Q. Zach, is there anything special you do in cold weather? Do you have like a favorite sweater? Do you have extra mittens?

ZACH JOHNSON: No, I mean, I'm pretty routine oriented. I don't like to have a lot of bulk up above, so I've got one on right now, but I don't think I hit a shot with this thing on. I was shedding, putting it back on, shedding, putting it back on. I prefer tight stretchy clothing when it's really cold out. I had at least three layers on at every point in time and that may not have been enough. Legs were warm, two layers down below. I thought it was going to warm up a little bit. I think it went the other way, I don't think it ever warmed up. Hard to judge the wind, too. I mean, you're looking at the compass, trees are kind of blocking.

Seaside, my guess is the wind was pretty obvious. Plantation is a little more difficult to figure it out, but it was still manageable, you could still get it today. I think given the setup and given the conditions, it was just a really good test.

Q. What do you do to keep your hands warm?

ZACH JOHNSON: I've got a hand warmer, just got to make sure I don't put my golf ball in that pocket, which I did not. Yeah, between shots I had my hands in my pockets, staying warm. Had a beanie on too most of the time, yeah.

Q. From a local standpoint, I know Sea Island has had a lot of people that have already been playing here, but then you add Greyson Sigg, Novak, and Higgo and all those guys. What's it like seeing the continuation of the growth of what Sea Island's

able to bring here.

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, this is a place where in my profession, if you're serious about the game, if you want to get better, you have all the amenities and then some basically at your fingertips. You have coaching, you have facilities, you have golf courses, and then you compound that with a phenomenal community, it's an easy place to live. It's not an easy place to get to, but we kind of like it that way.

I think there's -- we were doing some counting the other day, there's over a dozen guys that live here that are playing on the PGA TOUR and more mini-tour kids that are really, really good that probably will be here at some point. So, you know, I don't -- no one from this community's won here yet, but it's hard to do and I think it's just a matter of time. I'm not predicting anything, I'm just saying there's a lot of people in the field, they're all pros, but you've got to think at some point somebody's going to break through that lives here. I don't ever want to move.

Q. And I know locally, normally locally on Friday nights you're over at Frederica watching the football games and I know tomorrow they're on the road for playoffs, but what's your early prediction for them?

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, I don't know anything about Deerfield. I tee off at 10:30, I'll be done around 3:30. I might have a buddy who might have a kid on the team who has a little turbo something or other prop and I'll be wheels up after I get done flying to Albany, Georgia, to watch my Frederica Knights take down Deerfield, get to the semis in state.

My son's the starting right tackle. Excuse me. I was not getting choked up, that's just my cough. My son's the starting right tackle, so he's -- this is about the time during the week where he starts to get a little antsy, try not to have him hit his brother or sister, works at it. Friday night lights are amazing. I never got to play it for obvious reasons, but it's amazing. And I love our school, so I hope they take them down.

Q. How big's your son?

ZACH JOHNSON: How big's my son? He's about 6-1, 215, 210. He's probably lost a few pounds just because of practice every day, you know what I mean? Big kid, and he's fast. He's scary.

