

KEITH MITCHELL
J.J. SPAUN (-12)

Q. Gentlemen, pretty happy with that start after that front nine was a little quiet, but set it on fire on the back nine. How would you describe that day?

KEITH MITCHELL: It was -- we thought we were going to make two sixes in a scramble at one point. Thankfully J.J. hit a couple good chips and a really good putt to keep us from really -- I mean we could have lost the tournament just in those couple holes.

J.J. SPAUN: It was a very slow start.

KEITH MITCHELL: Very slow.

J.J. SPAUN: Although birdieing the first hole is not technically a slow start, but Keith played great, striped it. It was easy to hit from where he hits it off the tee. It's kind of a ham-and-egg day, but he did all the legwork, for sure.

KEITH MITCHELL: That's not true, but we had a good time out there.

Q. What sort of conversations did you have on that front nine about maybe getting yourself together and maybe making some action happen on the back?

J.J. SPAUN: I think we were just trying to not like let it get like super quiet, because it started to get quiet. We missed the green on 2 left, both left, which was the last place you wanted miss it, and we just started laughing. Then I duffed one.

KEITH MITCHELL: Two.

J.J. SPAUN: We took two of my duffs as the approach shot on 3 and 4, I think.

KEITH MITCHELL: Yeah.

J.J. SPAUN: We're like really, we're taking duffs as our select shot? We were just having fun with it. One putt kind of got the ball rolling for us.

Q. Have you guys played this format very much?

J.J. SPAUN: No, never.

KEITH MITCHELL: I couldn't tell you the last time I played a scramble, like a legit scramble.

J.J. SPAUN: I used to play it as a kid. Like my dad's afternoon groups, Saturday groups or something, they would do like a select shot nine holes, so it kind of reminded me of those days. It's been a while since. I was like 12.

Q. But it was fun?

J.J. SPAUN: Yeah, it was great. But there's still pressure, you don't want to let your partner down and you're just trying to hit the best shot you can. It was a fun day though overall.

KEITH MITCHELL: It's definitely fun trying to hit shots that you wouldn't necessarily hit in a tournament or you're swinging a little bit harder on a couple drives or aiming at flags you wouldn't normally aim at.

J.J. SPAUN: I'm definitely swinging harder trying to match your drive or else I'm not doing anything. Yeah, we had fun with it.

Q. I'm sure you guys have played together in tournaments, practice rounds, et cetera. The first time playing together as a team, did it sort of live up to your expectations? Did you go there with any expectation of what you might do today?

J.J. SPAUN: Well, I hadn't seen Keith until last night, I was like is my partner even on site? But we've known each other forever and it's just one of those things where you didn't have to have those formalities of like, hey, I'm your partner, like let's hug it out, nice to meet you.

KEITH MITCHELL: I was giving him a hard time, let's just put it that way.

J.J. SPAUN: Yeah, yeah, but we had a good time.

Q. Was there any specific shot out there that kind of --

J.J. SPAUN: Yes.

Q. -- stood out?

J.J. SPAUN: Keith's deuce, his marked deuce, bombed a 2-iron into No. 14. I mean, he made -- it was his eagle, like he hit the drive, we took his drive; he hit the second shot, we took his second shot, and he made the putt. It was an all natural eagle. It was like -- we all were like sick. And then I went second, I'm like, umm, what like, what number did you hit? Like I didn't even know what to do, like I don't even know what to do after that. We know it's stoned, it's like eight feet from like 265. It was stupid. I'm lucky to have a partner like that just making casual eagles.

Q. You guys both mentioned a little bit about kind of the relaxed feel about this week. Do you kind of enjoy -- I know obviously you want to compete and play well. Is it nice



to maybe take a little bit of pressure off so you can be more comfortable hitting some of these shots you wouldn't normally hit?

KEITH MITCHELL: Well, in the beginning if you asked you about having being relaxed, it was not relaxed.

J.J. SPAUN: No.

KEITH MITCHELL: We were stressed.

J.J. SPAUN: There was tons of stress.

KEITH MITCHELL: We might shoot like 4 under in a scramble. I think we were, I don't know, like 11 under the last 12 maybe and then we walk in, we're all relaxed like, oh, yeah, it was a great time.

I hate to say it kind of depends on how you play, but when you play well, it's a lot of fun because you have a partner. You can enjoy it with two people instead of one. I think the pressure's more sometimes because you're not only letting down yourself, you're letting down the guy next to you. Yeah, it's a relaxed week because there's only 24 guys and it's a three-day tournament and you're playing different formats and there's no cut.

J.J. SPAUN: There's still pressure.

KEITH MITCHELL: But there's pressure on ourselves because we didn't want to play bad.

J.J. SPAUN: Yeah, that's just the natural mindset of like a pro golfer, whether it's a fun week like this where there's no FedExCup points or anything, you still want to win.

KEITH MITCHELL: And you really don't want to lose. You want to win, but you really don't want to lose.

J.J. SPAUN: Yeah, exactly.

Q. Last one, now that you're off to a decent start and you're in the mix right now, how do you anticipate the format tomorrow, the modified --

KEITH MITCHELL: We weren't even really sure what the format one, we were arguing about it on the golf course.

J.J. SPAUN: Yeah, we were just trying to figure it out.

KEITH MITCHELL: On 18 we figured it out. Then we started talking, J.J. putted really well today so we weren't sure if just because I hit a longer drive, if he should hit the second shot because then I would putt and since he's putting it really well, we're like maybe if it's in the



middle, then --

J.J. SPAUN: Yeah, we started thinking about it way too much.

KEITH MITCHELL: Strategy.

J.J. SPAUN: But yeah, we'll figure something out for tomorrow. I think no matter what, yeah --

KEITH MITCHELL: We both played well on the back, so doesn't really -- if you both play well, it doesn't matter. We both played bad on the front.

