

ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
Presented by Mastercard

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
February 10, 2023

JOHN AUGENSTEIN (-9)



Q. All right, John, you're at 9 under through 36 holes. Walk me through this week and how your game's felt.

JOHN AUGENSTEIN: Yeah, it's felt good. It didn't feel that bad the first three events, just kind of couldn't get results out of it, but I mean this golf course, it's so important to be in position. Fairways are very, very important, and even if not fairway, the correct side of the hole depending on the hole location. So I think I've done a good job of that and allowed myself to kind of hit a lot of greens and not have a lot of stress. So continue to do that is important.

Q. How do you feel about facing this long course for two more days?

JOHN AUGENSTEIN: I'm excited. I love the golf course, it's really good. You have to really think your way around it, you have to know your numbers, the percentage that you're playing it. There's a lot that goes into every shot much more than probably most weeks. So I think we've done a good job so far and just try to keep doing that.

Q. I know this isn't the funnest necessary to talk about, but last hole, bogey there. Kind of walk us through what happened on 18.

JOHN AUGENSTEIN: Made a bad swing, just being an idiot, I don't know. Trying to probably work something in there a little bit too much, kind of got in front of it, left it out right. It was an OK spot. I hit a decent bunker shot, but it was a long bunker shot. I had about maybe eight feet for par. I hit a good putt, just kind of caught the high lip. But I could have made bogey somewhere else, so bogeys last hole, first hole, they all count the same.

Q. So up until this week your best -- your standing was T-5. As of right now, there's golfers still out there, but you're currently at T-2. Just how does it feel being in contention heading into the last two days?

JOHN AUGENSTEIN: Yeah, it's great. It's what we all -- it's what I play for, I don't know about everybody else. This is what you kind of come to do each week, you want to put yourself in contention. But there's -- just as 36 holes just happened, you have 36 more, a lot can happen. So we'll just try to keep staying with the plan we have for the course and we'll see where that puts us.



Q. You said you haven't seen many results in the first three events, but this will be your fourth consecutive cut. Walk us through this season, like how your game's felt, have you made changes or what's been going on?

JOHN AUGENSTEIN: Yeah, I had a really good offseason attacking kind of the problems I felt like I had last year, some physical, some mental. So I felt like coming out this year I feel really just comfortable for the most part. My game has felt good. Like I said, the results haven't been there, but I'm making cuts, which is great. When you're playing four rounds, you just learn so much more than playing two. Although those first three events weren't what we wanted, you know, playing 12 rounds is really important, you get to just continue to learn and see where you're going. So I feel like that's kind of helped me, too, to be trending this way coming into this week.

Q. I guess if you could pinpoint one thing. I mean, last year you missed the cut here, this year being in contention, if you could like pen one thing, what would be the biggest difference between last year and now?

JOHN AUGENSTEIN: Well, last year I didn't get to see the big golf course. I was supposed to play the pro-am and we got rained out, so I never got to see the main course. Not that that's an excuse, but it was definitely, it's different. Having gotten to see it and know the place a little bit better I think has helped me.

Q. I'm not sure if we've talked about this, but being at elevation, has your bag changed, have you added, taken away or anything like that?

JOHN AUGENSTEIN: I've lofted up my driver, that's about it. Yeah, you're just -- the percentage is so different. If you're going to flight one, it's 10 percent. For me, I hit it very high on a stock shot so I'm playing 15, sometimes more. I mean, it's all over the place. You have to really know what kind of shot you're hitting, where you're going to land it and then pick that percentage of how you're going to play it.

