

COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

June 25, 2023



JIMMY STANGER (-22)

Q. All right, Jimmy, in your 120th Korn Ferry Tour start you can officially say you're a champion. How does it feel?

JIMMY STANGER: It's not real, I don't believe this is happening. I'm going to wake up in my bed, this is going to be this morning and we've got to go through the day.

Yeah, I can't put it into words, I'm so beyond thankful.

Q. You said you didn't look at the leaderboard today. Is that normal for you or was today just kind of trying to focus on yourself?

JIMMY STANGER: Yeah, it's something I've been doing for the last eight, nine events. I had a little rough stretch earlier this year where I felt like I was playing great, I'd look at a leaderboard and my brain is active enough as is out there, so trying to worry about what other people are doing doesn't help me at all. Figure I'm going to give it my best on every shot no matter what, so let's worry about what I can do and see what happens at the end.

Q. So were there nerves over that birdie putt or did you even know what that meant for you?

JIMMY STANGER: There were nerves because I wanted to -- I wanted to finish with a birdie on the last hole, I wanted to shoot 6. I figured 22 had a better chance to win than 21, and it's the last hole of a big tournament so there were nerves.

I'm glad I didn't know where I was at, I would have been shaking a lot more. I was already shaking, you saw the emotions that came after I heard that I had won. I'm glad I wasn't feeling those before hitting the putt.

Q. Where do all those emotions come from? I know that you care so much about your family and the Lord and that's really important to you, so where do you pull those emotions from?

JIMMY STANGER: I mean, I've always been competitive, my mom can attest to that, since I was about 2 years old, but this is my sixth year out here on the Korn Ferry Tour. I came out of college having won a couple times in college. Just hearing about how quickly I would breeze through this tour to go to the PGA TOUR and I'm on my sixth year out here now. I've seen a lot of friends get up to the big PGA TOUR and play up there and win on this tour.



That desire's there. I've been putting in a ton of work, trying to do all the little things right day in and day out for the last, you know, couple years. You wonder if those are ever going to pay off. They pop into your head. This week especially it popped into my head Friday night, yesterday morning, this morning, just like oh, what would happen if I actually won today? But then you've got to just kind of push those down and be like, yeah, don't worry about what's going to happen.

The Bible verse that was going through my head all day is from James 4. It goes, Come now, you who say, let's go into this town today or tomorrow and trade and make a profit and spend a year there, but you don't know what tomorrow will bring. What's your life, for your (inaudible).

Instead you should say if the Lord wills, we will do this or that, anything else is boasting.

That's just my mindset today. I was saying that before hitting the eagle putt on the last hole before making the putt, just trying to rehearse that over and over again in my head, just saying if the Lord wills, I'll win. If he doesn't, who am I? Just trying to think on that instead of worrying about what could or couldn't happen.

Q. Your dad made a comment on the phone earlier about how it's a testament of who you are from last week, having a tough finish to now coming out with a victory. He said that's kind of a mirror of you, too. Can you kind of walk us through what that meant?

JIMMY STANGER: Yeah, it's just been something my dad's always preached to me, just always taught me growing up that you enjoy the good times, but it's the hard times that shape you and make you who you are.

Last week just stuff completely out of my control happened on the last hole. Hit my ball an inch out of bounds and made a 9 where making a par would have tied me for the lead and a birdie would have won.

And that hurt. I mean, I dropped from getting close to getting a PGA TOUR card to finishing 30th and maybe having my Korn Ferry card locked up or not, and that one stung so much. He said something to me along the lines of this is one of those tough moments that it's either going to make you or it's going to break you.

So my goal this week was let's do all the little things right no matter how hard it is, no matter how hard it might feel to get back up to that level on Sunday. Then this week all I could think about was how thankful I was to be in contention one week after that happened. And now to win, I mean, that's where those emotions came from. Those storybook things don't happen, it's not real. It's crazy, I don't know how someone can say there's not a God who's just so kind.



Q. So do you think that that -- you already mentioned this, but last week having that experience made this win a little bit sweeter?

JIMMY STANGER: Oh, so much so, yeah. Last week would have been special, but this is -- again, it's -- in my mind it's a storybook finish and it's unbelievable.

Q. 120 starts, so this week what was different for you, either anything mentally or your game just kind of came together?

JIMMY STANGER: I've been playing great golf for the last eight, nine events. I think I've had eight straight Top 30s, something along those lines, so I've been playing really good and just the craziest things have happened to keep me outside of the top-10.

I've talked to my caddie about it, I've talked to my girlfriend, my parents. It's like I'm playing good enough to shoot 5, 6 under every round and I feel like I'm walking away at 3 under. It's just let's keep doing the little things right and trust that it will come together. Let's not try to push or do anything else. That was the goal today, just do the little things right and see what happens at the end, and now we're here.

Q. We're more than halfway through this Korn Ferry Tour season and you are No. 5 on the Korn Ferry Tour points list, which you know the 30 get those PGA TOUR cards. How much has that gone through your mind even since the win today?

JIMMY STANGER: I mean, the PGA TOUR's another thing I've always wanted to be up there. As a kid at the Valspar Championship I would be a standard bearer, I'd work on the range, I just wanted to be able to shake the hand of a pro that came out there to hit golf balls.

Practicing at my home club, Avila, I would go out there and practice five-foot putts to win golf tournaments on the PGA TOUR.

Again, it's not real. I can't believe that I'm going to be up there next year, Lord willing. And yeah, it's going through my head a lot. I've been trying to suppress it all year and just trying to do all the little things right. Nothing's going to change, I'm going to keep doing that the rest of the year. My goal was to be playing better golf at the end of the year than at the beginning, so I'm going to try to keep doing those things right and see what can happen. This isn't the end goal, but it's a pretty amazing steppingstone.

Q. Does getting a win at this point in the season adjust any plans going forward? Does it take a little bit of pressure off, or how does it feel going forward the rest of the season?

JIMMY STANGER: As you know, this week was hot. I'm exhausted, my caddie's exhausted. Last week was hot, the week before was hot, next week's going to be hot. It's going to be nice, I'll definitely take one more off than I would and just try to make sure that



energy is saved up so that at each event I can give it 100 percent.

Q. Do you still mark your golf ball the same way?

JIMMY STANGER: I do, yep.

Q. Would you mind telling everybody the story behind that?

JIMMY STANGER: Yeah. So my golf ball's marked with HA for my friend Harris Armstrong growing up. He was my best friend. We played golf together every day, played up until high school. I think when I was a freshman in high school, he was just before, so 12 or 13. We were out chipping and putting and he just couldn't finish with his left arm. We were playing basketball and he couldn't make a left-handed layup. He's a left-hander.

Turned out, went in, he had spinal cord cancer. Kind of up brain, spinal cord cancer right up here, it was causing numbness down there.

Long story short, he fought it for about a year and a half. Through that experience I saw just a good friend continue to put his faith in God to trust that he would do something with that. It made a huge impact on 13-year-old Jimmy that I will never forget. I started marking my golf balls with HA for Harris Armstrong in that moment and I'm never going to stop. He's the reason I'm here and I'm just amazed that I'm still playing at 28 years old.

Q. I know your sister's into golf and she really looks up to you. Are you looking forward to talking to her about this win today?

JIMMY STANGER: I can't wait to talk to her. She's been so encouraging and so supportive, and I know she's looking forward to coming out to one if not both of the Chicago events either next week or a couple weeks from now when we go up to Chicago.

I can't wait to talk to her, can't wait to talk to just all the family and get their reactions.

Q. You mentioned that a year-and-a-half ago you were kind of in a tough place and then you found a new coach. Can you walk us through kind of how he helped pull you out of that season?

JIMMY STANGER: Yeah. I had felt like four years on this tour, I had hit a wall. I knew that I was a good player, good enough to keep my card out here, good enough to flirt with the PGA TOUR line, but it would take something fluky for me to do it. I wasn't a good enough ball-striker. Under pressure I couldn't hit shots like I hit today and just take pressure off myself. I would rely on a really good short game, really good around the greens and really good putting to get to the PGA TOUR and I figured that wasn't sustainable.

So started working with John Scott. He's been incredible. He works with a bunch of guys out here and on the PGA TOUR. We kind of tore down and rebuilt the golf swing, worked



through a back injury that affected me the last half of last year where I finished the final event I forget how many shots but in dead last.

Yeah, it was just a lot of perseverance. Again, trying to do those little things right day in and day out. In the last eight, nine events it's really clicked. And even today, to feel like I left a lot of shots out there and still shoot 6 under is proof that it's working.

Q. Speaking of ball-striking, great shot coming in here on 18. Was it a blind shot? What did you have coming in?

JIMMY STANGER: Yeah.

Q. And was the plan always to just go for the green?

JIMMY STANGER: Yeah, the plan on this hole's go for the green, especially with this pin in the back of the green. I figured you had a lot of room right if I left it out there.

I was in the middle left side of the fairway and had a big tree in my way, so I was trying to hit a high draw. I had 235, it's hot, I had some adrenaline going, so I hit a 5-iron, which is normally my 210 club. I hit it really, really good. It was overdrawing a hair just with the wind, I think I got a little gust or something. Thought it would be up there on the green but it was just off the green. Either way, the mission was accomplished, we got it up there close enough to be able to have a relative tap-in for birdie and get the win.

Q. You had mentioned that there's been a couple times previous where you imagined what would it feel like to get that win. Does it measure up to what you thought it would be?

JIMMY STANGER: It does. I mean, and I think it's because I have not allowed myself to fantasize about it. I've seen friends win out here. I know it's not going to change your life, it's not going to make me a different person, I don't want it to make me a different person. But man, it feels good. It feels so good.

