

Utah Championship
Presented by Zions Bank

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
August 3, 2023

JAKE KNAPP (-8)



Q. All right, Jake, bogey-free Round 1, 8 under. Just how was it out there today?

JAKE KNAPP: It was good. Starting off in the rain wasn't super, fantastic but had a little delay and then after was able to go back out and make the birdie putt I had on No. 3. Yeah, was able to keep it rolling from there. Didn't play as well on the back nine, but yeah, solid day overall.

Q. Mike came back in from filming you and said there was kind of a crazy start to the day, it was just one event after the other. What was going on?

JAKE KNAPP: Yeah. The first hole I hit it like basically in a divot that was around the edge of the fairway. Wasn't sure if it was in or out, ended up being in, so I was able to move it. Didn't hit a very good wedge shot at all, then made a long putt.

Then the second hole, my second shot came to rest up against a rake, but it wouldn't stay where it was. So I wanted to make sure I was putting it in the right spot, had an official come over.

Then yeah, it was just kind of a whirlwind for those first few. Rain kind of stopped and started, and then started to really get after it, so it was nice to come inside and dry off for a minute.

Q. Yeah, 8 under, it's incredible, bogey free. What was going right for you? Obviously looks like everything, but --

JAKE KNAPP: Yeah, I mean, I like it here, I like the course. It's not a ton of drivers necessarily, but it's a little bit of position golf. You've got to make sure you give yourself a lot of opportunities, scores are going to be low.

Yeah, got the putter rolling, which is nice. I'm comfortable on these greens. They're poa annua, which is the same as home. Yeah, just feels comfortable and was able to get the putter going.

Q. We're almost 20 events into the season, you only missed one cut. Just how would you sum up this whole season in your own words?



JAKE KNAPP: Yeah, it's been good. Like I haven't really necessarily felt like everything's been clicking all at once, but just feel like I've played solid. I've putted pretty well all year, I've hit the ball solid. Just been kind of solid from top to bottom, nothing super bad. Just been able to grind out some tough waves or some tough rounds and just been able to keep myself in it. Yeah, can't complain, it's been a solid season.

Q. What's been the biggest difference for you this season versus the last time that you were a full member on the Korn Ferry Tour?

JAKE KNAPP: I think just like being comfortable in general, just being comfortable with the lifestyle, knowing my routine, everything else. And I mean, I wouldn't say -- I definitely haven't done anything different necessarily, just put in the work and just felt like I've started to get better at the things I wasn't very good at. Now it's just a matter of everything just getting a little bit tighter and a little bit better.

Q. It's been almost exactly a year since your PGA TOUR-sanctioned win on Canada. How has it been looking back on that win?

JAKE KNAPP: Yeah, on that, for sure, it seems like a lifetime ago now. I feel like the last year and a half has gone by so quick. Canada's great, I think it's prepared me to be out here.

I think the first time that COVID season, like I just think I struggled with how fast everything was going and just didn't ever really feel settled in and then just didn't feel like I was playing very well.

Then went back up to Canada last year, and that tour's more than anything just kind of taught me how to win, how to play four days and just like keep myself in it. You know you're not going to play perfect every day, so it's just a matter of that one round, not putting yourself out of it.

Q. You had mentioned you felt like not everything's even clicked for you yet, but you've had seven top-10s this season. So are you just kind of like waiting for those things to click? Like you're obviously still hanging in there like despite that. Like how does that feel?

JAKE KNAPP: Yeah, it feels great. That's what my caddie and I have kind of talked about, it's like we haven't had any week where it's kind of like clicked. We shouldn't say clicked all week, we've had certain parts where I've hit the ball great all week or whatever. It's hard to get every part of your game working every day.

But I've had a decent amount of backdoor top-10s where I've been in like 20th, 25th, played well on Sunday and snuck into the top-10. We kind of talked about trying to get after it a little earlier, want to be in contention. Oklahoma was really the only time where I was in the last group. I want a chance at that again. Rather than trying to play my way back into it, I want to feel like I'm in it from start to finish.



Q. But you're off to that start now, right?

JAKE KNAPP: Yeah, off to a good start. One round down, three more to go.

Q. Scores are generally low, they always are here. Is this a case where you just have to have your pedal to the metal all four days?

JAKE KNAPP: For sure. It's like you play well on a day like today, you shoot 8 under, but you know you're going to have to go do it four days in a row. There's no room to let up or to really give in at all, you've got to go out there and try to shoot 8 under every single day. I would think that that would be enough, but yeah, you've got to go out and make a lot of birdies.

Q. Do you prefer it this way or do you like the U.S. Open-type courses?

JAKE KNAPP: I think, I mean, I like both. I'd say I'm comfortable going low, it doesn't make me nervous or uncomfortable to make a bunch of birdies or for scores to be really low. But I also feel like firm, fast courses tend to fit my game a little better since I hit it high and spin it a lot.

So yeah, I think I like both sides. Canada, the course I won at was 26 under par, something like that. So I feel like I'm comfortable going either way.

Q. What has your history been here at Oakridge?

JAKE KNAPP: I don't know my best finish. I know I was kind of in contention the last time I was here. I don't think I played very well on Sunday necessarily, but I knew I was kind of up and around the last few groups I think on Sunday a few years ago.

Yeah, it's a course I'm comfortable on. It's kind of a country club traditional style course, so that's kind of what I grew up on. There's no uncomfortable shots out there for me.

