

ROUND 1 QUOTES
May 9, 2024

JASON DAY (-3)



Q. Jason, how would you assess the round today?

JASON DAY: Got off to a really nice start. A little scrappy on the back side I would say, just missed a couple of easy up-and-downs. I think overall the course is obviously playing really difficult with how firm the greens are even with the rain that we got overnight. I'm not sure how the weather's going to be over the next day or so, but I mean, those greens are really tough. It's been a while since we played greens like these, because I remember back in the day we would be bouncing pitching wedges 5 and 10 paces. It seems like that just hasn't been like that for a long time. It's nice to see for a change. It's one of those things where you kind of have to miss it in the correct spot. You really have to plan accordingly ahead of your round just to know kind of where you need to miss so you can get up and down.

Q. Is there an example maybe on a shot where you just -- a shot you had today where you played X yardage but you played it for how much shorter?

JASON DAY: Well, I mean, it was interesting, I watched Brian Harman into the 10th green, which was our first hole today, hit a wedge shot and that must have skipped 15 paces on a wedge. Now granted, some of the greens were just like slightly inconsistent with the bounces that you would expect to bounce at least 10 to 15 paces, like 17 for instance. After playing those first seven holes you're thinking, OK, we're going to get at least a good 10, 15 bounce here, but Brian hit a great shot going into that green, landed kind of at the top of the hill and kind of just trickled over.

Once again, it's a really difficult golf course. It's a tough, really tough golf course. It's long, it's playing pretty strong today especially with that northwesterly -- it started southwest and then kind of switched to like a west-northwest, and I think that's kind of what we're going to have the rest of the week.

It will be interesting to see where the scores end up. Typically, if you don't see anything kind of lower than, you know, 7 kind of in the first round, sometimes it doesn't get to -- it goes kind of like low teens. In the past this course is kind of -- the winning score's been 16 under par. I think it's going to be a little bit kind of harder than that.

Q. Is this a good -- do you like having this kind of test right before a major?

JASON DAY: One hundred percent. You would rather this test than something where it's super easy and it's super receptive. We don't know what we're going to get next week in Valhalla. Last time I played there we had a boatload of rain and it was soft, but if we do get good weather, they're going to firm the greens up pretty good.



So it's kind of nice to be able to come from a week like this where the course setup is really nice, the conditions are tremendous and then getting into a major. It kind of feels like a mini major here this week.

Q. For you they had to flip the nines because of the rain.

JASON DAY: Yes.

Q. The teeth of this course, holes 1 through 4 in difficulty, are on your first nine today. Did you like to get that out of the way?

JASON DAY: Are you talking about this side?

Q. Yeah, the first side you played is the tougher side.

JASON DAY: Yeah, I actually played really good on the tough side. Yeah, 16, 17, 18's like, it's no snack. And 11, 12, 13, it's crazy, like you kind of have to -- got to really pick where you can kind of make birdies. It's really difficult to -- like for instance 12, you know, if you hit it down the middle, yeah, you've got an opportunity to get it somewhere on the green, but that pin's like 30-plus back there and if you're in between clubs, especially this morning, you couldn't land it on top. It was really difficult to land it on top. You had to land it kind of back before that slope, so you're playing a slightly different shot.

Yeah, it was nice to be able to get through the back nine early this morning kind of before like what we're feeling right now with the wind.

