

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
October 25, 2024

JASON CARON (-7)



Q. Jason, thank you for joining us, a 7 under round. Just to start out, how great did it feel to make that putt on the last?

JASON CARON: Yeah, I hit not my best drive, but I hit a really good 3-wood in there. When we saw the ball splash in the bunker, I was kind of like, man, I hit it pretty good, because it's a little into the wind. I had like 240 to cover. Had no clue the ball was in the water, zero. We thought -- when I didn't see it, I said maybe it plugged in the lip. Everyone up in the stands there said no, it went in the water. I'm like how? It looked like it was actually a really good shot.

But it is what it is. Then to make the putt, that was huge.

Q. Bogey-free round, what was the key to your round overall?

JASON CARON: Putting, I made a lot of putts today. My speed was pretty good for the most part, got the ball online. The greens are perfect, they were great speed. There wasn't a blemish on 'em, especially being in that first group. Just fortunate enough to make a few putts.

Q. Are you a scoreboard watcher?

JASON CARON: Today I am because I really don't -- there's nothing to lose so I'm kind of just looking up and wow, there's my name at the top. So it was pretty cool, yeah. I hope someone at home gets a picture of it.

Q. When you see that, what goes through your mind?

JASON CARON: I mean, I'm not trying to think of too much out there, to be honest. I'm not trying to get too far ahead of myself. I know this is kind of like -- I don't want to say it's a free week, but kind of feels that way a little bit because there's really nothing to lose for me regardless. Everyone probably knows that's been watching golf of late, I mean, I have a job at Mill River, so I feel very fortunate there. This is just kind of like a bonus. We'll see what happens.

Q. Was there anything that (inaudible)?

JASON CARON: Yeah, I played well all day. I hit it pretty good today. I wouldn't say hit it great, but I hit it pretty good, kept the ball like in play. I had a couple wedge shots -- again, I've been playing my wedges pretty nice this year and making the putts. That's the key I

think in golf is that it doesn't matter how you arrive, right, it matters where it is after you arrive, right, and hopefully it's in the hole. And today it did, so it was fun.

Q. When you got in trouble on the back nine, you were able to (inaudible)?

JASON CARON: Yeah, and I think that's part of playing well, right? When you're playing well, sometimes the breaks go your way. They can go the other direction in a heartbeat. One of the shots I just had to chip something low and it kind of squirted up onto just over the green. And the other one, actually had a perfect window, the lie was good, perfect window to hit like a 7-iron and I pulled the shot off.

Q. You matched the course record.

JASON CARON: I didn't know that, no. That's pretty neat. Who did I tie?

Q. A mid-am from years ago. It may not last too long.

JASON CARON: Yeah, right.

Q. When people see that, you know, you just got in, they don't realize that you're only playing your eighth, ninth event of the year. How have you spent the rest of the season?

JASON CARON: Yeah, again, I'm the head golf professional at the Mill River Club in Oyster Bay, New York. They've been very nice enough to let me go out and play and they like that. They've always had a good playing professional.

Everything kind of just snowballed this year when it came to playing. I wasn't doing anything different. I didn't practice harder, I didn't putt more. I just kind of like let it go and I think that's been the key to my success is just letting it go.

A lot of people say that you're probably in such a good spot because you have such a good job at home that this is kind of like kind of just free money, if you will, right? So just kind of play free. I think it really has worked quite well this year.

Q. I don't know if you believe in jinxes, anything like that, but start the week near the bottom, 54. Last thing I saw projected you're around 12. Is that like, wow, I can be all the way up to 12 right now?

JASON CARON: We would need a lot of rain the next two days for that to be an easy number and I don't think we're getting that.

No, again, I already know my deal. My deal is I have a job and that's No. 1. I have two young girls and I want to be around to watch them grow up. This extra stuff out here is just a bonus for me.

Next year, I talked to Al about this actually last night about it, it's like this is all kind of like, I hate saying these words, like gravy, right? Just the opportunity, go out and play golf and hopefully it's a good finish. I'm really trying to keep my mental side that way just to kind of keep it freed up.

Q. Have you been to Arkansas before?

JASON CARON: I have, yeah. Back in my old days when I was younger I played the Korn Ferry Tour event. In fact, what's interesting is I finished second in Hot Springs, so I have had success here in the state of Arkansas. Maybe that's on my side.