

KIA OPEN

ROUND 4 QUOTES

April 27, 2025

JAY CARD III (-16)



Q. Jay, what a day. First of all, impressions of being a PGA TOUR Americas winner?

JAY CARD III: I don't think it's set in yet. There's a lot of feelings in there. I can't tell you how much this means to me and how excited I am to be here right now. It's unbelievable.

Q. First pro win as a 30-year old, turned pro in 2018. What's been the road to get to this point?

JAY CARD III: Yeah. I wasn't recruited out of high school. I walked on and played one semester of college golf. People my whole life have been telling me you won't be good enough, you're not good enough, you won't make it, why are you trying, and I just kind of kept my head down and did my work.

After college I worked at a couple golf courses down in Florida. I'm so thankful for them, Bear's Club and Jupiter Hills, Dye Preserve. National Golf Links, I caddied there in the summers to make money so I could come down and work and play and get better.

After Bear's Club I qualified for Korn Ferry for the first time I had status on any Tour. Yeah, from there it's been a tough road. Golf is hard, winning is harder. I had status, lost status, got it again, lost it again, got hurt, got status in Canada last summer. It's so hard.

Q. Winning is hard, you said, and it was pretty hard today. You entered the third round, the final round holding a four-shot lead and it was soon gone.

JAY CARD III: Yeah.

Q. Take me through your day.

JAY CARD III: Yeah, that first hole tee shot is a little uncomfortable. Just kind of blocked one out to the right a little bit in the trees and had to punch a 7-iron up on the green. Sometimes out here it's just hard to tell if a putt's uphill or downhill. I just kind of gassed it by five feet, they're so subtle, and it just lipped out.

It's never great, one of the guys in the group rattles off birdie on the first hole and I three-putt. I'm like, oh, boy, here we go. But I bounced back with a birdie on the second, I made a 15-footer, which was huge.



Then I make that triple on 6. It was just a really tough place to be. You're looking at the water on the left there with that bunker just as bad as the water, or worse because I ended up being in the water after the bunker.

I don't know, I just had this feeling of calmness, like everything was going to be OK. It was never like -- I was upset a little bit, but it wasn't like my day is over or this is awful. Whether how much of that is playing with my friend Jake or just, I don't know, just the belief in myself.

Q. Three birdies on the back nine, at some point on the back nine looked like Jake was going to run away with it, but he had a double and everything evened out right at the end. The birdie on 17 turned out to be critical.

JAY CARD III: Yeah. I've been struggling with my chipping a little bit on this grass so I was so happy to just hit it to a foot. Then with the pressure, I knew where I stood, I checked the leaderboard. I just like to know so I know that was really big in the moment. Yeah, one-footers take a lot of stress off.

Q. And it was pretty much like a playoff, you and Celia tied for the lead heading into the final hole, he makes bogey. Take me through that hole.

JAY CARD III: Yeah, I was always going to hit 4-iron on that hole, it's just one of those things I feel like I'm going to hit the fairway most times with a 4-iron, and then I still had pitching wedge into the green. You know, I had a really good number and I hit it a little fat or something, I don't know. I just didn't want to adrenaline juice it over the green because there's people and long's not good.

I just felt like, hey, like give myself a putt. I'm rolling it great and who knows what's going to happen, but give yourself the chance, give yourself the opportunity. I thought I made that putt and it came up just a hair short. It was a nerve wracking waiting game to kind of see how it would shake out.

Q. We spoke earlier in the week after Round 2 about your game trending, missing the cut in the opening event in Cordoba, tying for 8th, a top-10 in Brazil and now you're a winner. So --

JAY CARD III: Sky's the limit.

Q. And you're a step closer to being one of the 10. We're far from it, it's only the third event of the season, but this is a step in the right direction.

JAY CARD III: It's huge, yeah. Even coming into this week finishing 8th in Brazil I was kind of looking at how many points I needed to make sure I could play in Canada. I knew I was close to the number last year. I mean, it's a big relief now that I'm going to be OK. Every point is worth it, especially that's what I learned on Korn Ferry. Coming down to the end of



the year, one place. Whether you're Stuart Macdonald last year finishing 11th on the list or you don't know how close it's going to be, so you don't take those opportunities for granted.

Q. At the end of Friday we talked we wouldn't be here through 54, we thought that we would barely make it through 36. What did you think about the weather today? At some point we also thought it might get canceled.

JAY CARD III: Yeah, there were some dark clouds out there for a while. Part of me was like, you know, let's have a delay so we can go back to a 36-hole score, but no, I wanted to win it. I didn't want my first win to be something like I played really good for one day and then we couldn't finish the tournament. It's still 54 holes but I feel like I really fought hard today and I earned it. I went through the ups, the downs and it happened.

Q. You mentioned last couple years how much of a rollercoaster it's been. Today was a rollercoaster, you came back to win. Obviously Jake is your friend but missing that putt on 18 won you the tournament. Just tell me about your reaction when you saw that miss and just who you're thinking of in that moment.

JAY CARD III: Yeah, I mean, it was tough. I was standing over it, I thought he was going to make it. Like he rolled it so good all day. And I never want to root against someone and like it's hard to root for him in that situation. I was like, hey, I just want -- I just want us to play good golf and see what happens at the end of the day.

Yeah, I was thinking about my family, my parents who have sacrificed a lot for me to be here, my dad worked two jobs most of my life. I can't thank them enough. My hometown, my pro, Jeff; Erik, my putting coach. Yeah, I have so many people to be thankful for and just really glad to be here right now.

Q. Have you and Jake exchanged words since the final?

JAY CARD III: Not yet, but I think he's over there behind you.

Q. What's your message to him?

JAY CARD III: Dude, it's hard, winning's hard. (Laughs.) Oh, I love ya, buddy.

JAKE STAIANO: You've got to buy me dinner now.

Q. What does that say about his character?

JAY CARD III: It's unbelievable. Those are the kind of people you want to surround yourself with, the people who make you better, the people who are there for you even when it's tough for them. It really says a lot about him.

