

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
February 21, 2026

JACOB BRIDGEMAN (-19)



Q. You just explained today was fun.

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: It was, fun and easy. Kind of the best that the golf world ever gets. My swing felt nice and it was fun out there, everyone was cheering, so yeah, it was a good day.

Q. Any surprise at how easy it was considering you're in a final group at a Signature Event at Riviera?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: No. I played great this whole week, so I don't think it was a surprise to me that my game was the way it is. Yeah, I've said kind of the whole week I feel comfortable and I felt great today.

Q. Getting yourself in contention just last week, how much does that kind of just help you kind of immediately carry that over into another week?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, last week I played pretty good. I really struggled off the tee. I feel like I kind of faked it the whole week and somehow got up there with a chance to win, which was kind of encouraging for me. I felt like the rest of my game kind of overshadowed my bad driver last week, and this week I worked on it a lot. I drove it, in my standards, fairly well.

I don't know that a mindset really helped from week to week, but definitely everything else being really good last week helped this week.

Q. And first time at Pebble, first time at Riv. You were aggressive on 18 at Pebble, you're firing at pins today. Are you usually that kind of mentality of kind of just go for it?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yes, in the situation if I need to be, yes, I'll go for it. I'm not going to play safe. I would say overall I'm very aggressively conservative and for whatever reason when I try to aim away from the target, I feel like most of the time the ball just starts to go towards the hole. I think that's something in college, Coach Byrd at Clemson told me was if you aim away, your misses will sometimes end up at the hole. So that seemed to be working pretty good.

Q. And I mean like you're walking down 18 and you have like the CBS team like following you as you're walking down the fairway. Is that the first like time you've got like that full like everyone watching you treatment and do you have to like train



yourself for that when you're playing?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: I would say maybe the last time I had that was Valspar last year. I think I led the whole week and kind of lost right at the end, so I had that kind of attention.

But yeah, it was just fun today. I didn't feel like it was actual pressure. There's tons of people out here so a couple more people with cameras doesn't really make a big deal.

Q. Any takeaways from Valspar last year kind of going through that experience, anything you can use tomorrow?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, last year I felt nice. I kind of I think on the tee I expected to be nervous and feeling more pressure than I did. Then when I got on the tee it was kind of eerie that I didn't feel that and I felt good. I think I sort of psych myself out a little bit.

I didn't play great Sunday at Valspar, but I still kind of hung in there, gave myself a chance. Viktor just ran away with it. I think the most part is I'll know kind of how I'm going to feel and be confident in that.

Q. Seems like some guys are having trouble putting on some of these greens. You didn't have any trouble today it seemed like. What is it about the greens that maybe suit your eye or how you're putting?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: In the past I've really struggled on poa. For whatever reason, I didn't like it, didn't really know what to do. I think I've accepted now that some of them are going to bump out. Like mine on the last hole, I hit a good putt, it just bumped left and it didn't go in. I think in the past I would get kind of frustrated with that and that would kind of inch over into my stroke and play.

I had to make an adjustment mid round. At the beginning I kind of got off to a nice start, had a bunch of short putts and didn't really have any 15-footers where the speed matters, and then kind of in the middle of my round I hit a few way too hard and told my caddie, I've got to hit those a little softer, they're not taking a break. After that I feel like I hit a lot of good putts.

Q. Statistically, just like kind of off-the-charts day for Strokes Gained: Approach for you. Is there anything you've been working on or just generally kind of trends that you've seen that would make you say, yeah, that makes sense?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, I've done a lot of work with Scott Hamilton, my coach. I was not that good at approach in the past, especially when I was in college. I kind of just putted my way around and won some tournaments that way.

We've done a lot to kind of increase the height of my iron shots and give me a little bit more spin. I switched balls at the start of the year and the new ball's been great. But this week I think the soft greens are allowing me to kind of just hit cruisy shots, little chip shots a lot of



times especially in the wind and it gives me a lot of control.

Q. And then is there a specific challenge of playing with Rory tomorrow? I know you guys played together last summer and you said you enjoyed it. Is there anything different about it being him paired with you?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: I think maybe the only thing would be I know he's going to play well tomorrow. I know that I can't back up at all.

But I think I feel comfortable. I was a little bit uncertain how it would be last year when I played with him in the Playoffs. And I had a big day in Baltimore, I had to play good to make the Tour Championship and I was paired with Rory and it was kind of a lot, I thought. Then I got out there and he was super nice to me and super welcoming, and the fans were great as well.

I think if it was my first time maybe it would be a little unsettling, but now I'm not worried about it.

Q. There are some people that are getting to know you for the first time. What do you want people to know about Jacob Bridgeman?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: I'm a competitor. I haven't had a ton of chances to win yet in my career, but I'm hoping that I'll have a chance, a good chance tomorrow all the way till the end. If I can get it done, I'd like to kind of start rolling and get a lot of these.

Q. Can you talk about the second shot on 11? Obviously almost holed it from -- what you had and just what you saw when you watched the ball?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, it was 265 downwind. I was trying to hit it I think about 10 short just because long wasn't great to that pin. I felt like I had to hit a 7-wood because my 4-iron might not cover the front.

So I tried to hit it as soft as I could and hit a high fade, and I think the wind kind of gusted a little bit and carried it a little bit farther than we thought.

And kind of right when I hit it, I saw it taking off and I knew it was going to be nice, and then it hit right over that slope. Crowd kind of jumped a little bit and were cheering, I thought it went in. Then I heard the "ohhhh," and I knew it missed. That was one I was trying to be a little bit conservative and it turned out to be amazing.

Q. With a six0shot lead, the smart play people would say would be to be a little bit more conservative, greens and fairways, that kind of thing, but you were saying you typically are more aggressive. How do you kind of blend those two when you go out tomorrow?



JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, I think the way I've been playing is pretty aggressive and it's been working. I don't know that I'm going to change anything. And if that aggression gets me into a little bit of trouble, that's OK. Maybe it will kind of balance out with some good ones.

Yeah, I don't think anything's going to change. Hopefully I can come out firing again. If it doesn't work out that way, maybe I'll reassess halfway through, but I'm going to probably play the same way.

Q. Cognizant was kind of where, you know, you finished second last year at Cognizant. We're about a year next week. Where are you different from a year ago to today?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: My rookie year I think my goal every week was to finish top-10 and I didn't do it and that was frustrating to me. I think with Cognizant last year might have been my first top-10, it was the second, and that was kind of my thing, finish top-10, finish top-10, and then I got there and I started playing well and I'm like, oh, man I might have a chance to win.

I think once that first one happened and I realized, oh, it's not as hard as I thought it was going to be, I kind of started running with it and started piecing some good rounds together. I realized it doesn't take four perfect rounds and 18 perfect holes to do that. I think that has kind of trended into maybe my goal was top-10, now my goal is to win.

Q. Apologize for being a late arrival. Did you talk about the fourth? Did you hit 7-wood there?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: I did.

Q. Looked like a good shot.

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: It was kind of one of those where I thought I had a lot of club, but beginning -- same as 11, I didn't think my 4-iron could go far enough to cover the front, so I tried to just hit it as soft as I could. I choked down and hit a fade, and it kind of just went straight up in the air and obviously landed really soft and kind of pulled back to the hole. Yeah, that one was just one that turned out perfect.

Q. And then 7 but also on 11, I take it.

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah.

Q. What club did you hit on 12?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Twelve.

Q. That was the next one.



JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Oh, yeah. I hit a little chip 6-iron. I think it was maybe 180 or so into a little bit of breeze. I felt like 7 might balloon up in the air. I knew short right was terrible. So I hit kind of a little chip 6 in there to try to hit it about 190.

Q. Then when you hit that stretch especially going 3, 3, 3 to start and your lead's all of a sudden 6, did you see any boards, did you need to, and what was that feeling like of really starting to pull away?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, I've always been a leaderboard watcher. In junior golf we would do scoring and even college we would do scoring in our phones. I would put in my score and check the leaderboard, see how my buddies were doing, see how I was doing. I've always wanted to know what I needed to do, if anything, so I watch the leaderboard even if I'm in 70th on Sunday. I like to know where I'm at. It doesn't intimidate me or anything.

Q. What did you think?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: It was cool to see that I had opened up a gap and see that the other guys weren't really making moves.

