

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
July 9, 2026

STEPHAN JAEGER (-7)



Q. Stephan, 7-under 63, what was special about that round this morning having never played here at this course before?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, like you said, I've never seen it. Played Tuesday and Wednesday. It's a great track. Obviously I've heard that last year it was playing super firm, I think with the weather we won't probably get there. But it suits my eye, it fits my game pretty well. I played nice honestly, all parts of the game were good. Very happy with the round.

Q. Is there anything that you did particularly well?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Not really. I made some putts. Obviously you've got to make some putts to shoot 7 under. I felt like I hit it in the right spots. Missed a few greens, but in the right spot. Made some nice up-and-downs on that end. Made a nice couple birdie putts on the back nine to keep the momentum going a little bit. Yeah, end up at 7 under.

Q. Your season so far, three top-10s overall, pretty solid so far?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, it's funny. When you say it like that, it does feel it's been a decent season. Then you look at my FedExCup ranking and it's just not where I really wanted to be. So it's been a little frustrating on that end to maybe not get the points that I want to in some events that I was playing well at. You know, we've known that the elevated events, you don't get into those, those are big point events. So I've only played one of those this year.

I felt like I was -- every time I was like sixth, seventh or eighth out of that Aon 5 so I missed out on a lot early, so that was a little bit of a bummer. But I feel like I played really nice last week. The round on Friday kind of knocked me back a little bit, but I had a nice weekend at John Deere. I want to build on that for the next couple weeks and yeah, see how far we can go the playoff push, for sure.

Q. How much would it mean to you, I know it's early, but to grab another victory and validate that first one?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, after you win the first, that second one always gets a little harder I feel like. Like I said, I've been playing nice last week and then this week obviously the game feels nice. Like you said, there's a lot of golf left, putting four good rounds together is one that I really want to do. Come out tomorrow and play nice and give myself the confidence I need for the weekend and maybe get it done.



Q. You birdied both of the par 5s. How important is it to play those well?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I played them differently in a sense. On 7 I hit a nice drive so I could go for the green. I hit it just short, so it was a pretty easy up-and-down. On 10 I hit in the rough so I had to lay up and wedged it really close.

Like you said, it's two par 5s. They do have a lot of short par 4s, so you will have a lot of wedges in if you hit in the fairway. That's one of those things where if you get in the fairway, you can be aggressive. The greens are obviously not too firm and you can kind of throw some darts, for sure.

Q. You mentioned it's your first time playing the course, this is your first time in the city of Louisville. What are your first impressions of it so far?

STEPHAN JAEGER: I played Valhalla a couple years ago at the PGA. We really like the area. We're actually not staying in Kentucky this week, we're staying across the bridge in Jeffersonville. Kind of doesn't feel like we're in Kentucky, but we are. Yeah, it's beautiful. We've got a nice house, food's been great, so I'm happy with all of it.

