



ROUND 1 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JOE DURANT
Thursday, October 30, 2014

DAVE SENKO: Well, Joe, thanks for joining us. Good start, 4-under today. Scores aren't really low so you've got to be really pleased with that.

JOE DURANT: I was pleased, I am pleased. The greens were maybe a touch quicker today, they might have double cut and rolled them last night perhaps. The wind was up a little bit today. I think we were all caught offguard because the forecast was pretty much light and variable. It blew a little bit, so some of the holes changed direction a little bit, too, so it made a tough picking clubs a few times.

DAVE SENKO: Birdies, you start at No. 7, the par 3.

JOE DURANT: 6-iron in there close, had about a three-footer, made that. I was fortunate, Woody Austin hit first, he hit 5-iron over the green so I knew that was not the club because we're about the same distance. Hit two good shots on 8 to about 15 feet and made the eagle there, hit driver, 5-iron. Followed up, hit a perfect tee shot on nine, had a gap wedge in my hand, hit it just a little short, it spun back down off the front, did not get up and down, made 5. And then I think I bogeyed 12. I hit a perfect drive down the middle but then pulled my second shot. I was fighting the pulse a little bit today with my irons, just pulled that one left of the green, did not get up-and-down. Then made a good putt on the next hole, the 3-par, I made about a 20-, 25-footer there.

DAVE SENKO: What did you hit?

JOE DURANT: Pitching wedge.

DAVE SENKO: And then the par 5?

JOE DURANT: Par 5, I laid up. It was into the wind so I hit driver, 7-iron to lay up and hit a wedge to about three feet, made that. 17 was a tough hole today because it was into the wind and I cut a 3-iron but it hit hard, went through the green. I had a tough pitch. When I made the pitch, it was kind of a flop shot, I had to hit up over a mound a bit and hit a really good shot, made the deuce there, which was like stealing one.

DAVE SENKO: How far was that?

JOE DURANT: I was probably 10 paces from the hole I would say, yeah. And then 18 I pulled my tee shot so I had to just punch it across the ravine or whatever you call

it, the wash there, and I left it in a poor spot. I only had like a 30-yard shot, I was behind the tree so I had to bail left, so that went through the green. I was lucky to two-putt and get out of there with 5.

I played well, made a few mistakes here and there, irons weren't quite as sharp as they have been, but drove it nicely. I'm pleased with a 4-under today.

DAVE SENKO: Just go back to 17 again, your shot sequence?

JOE DURANT: 3-iron over the back edge and then pitched in from say 30 feet.

Q. Three 2s on a card are always nice, but what happened on 11?

JOE DURANT: I hit a good shot on the last -- that was probably one of the better, other than the other 3-par on the front, I hit a good shot in there. But the pin was in a tough spot and you really couldn't fire at it. I hit it about 30 feet and two-putted. My cousin was a real good scoring player, he always said if you can get six 3s on your card, you're going to shoot a good number. Well, to get three 2s...

Q. You played awfully well this year, events that I've seen and some others. Can you kind of assess where your game is at in relation to this tour out here now?

JOE DURANT: I've been really pleased with my game this year. I accomplished just about everything I wanted to accomplish this year. I haven't won out here, which was a goal of mine, and I didn't stay in the 125 on the regular tour. But that being said, I mean, going back and forth was pretty taxing and it was kind of -- it kind of hurt me in some respects. Like going into last week, I knew I had to play well to stay in the top 30. Fortunately, I played good the week before to get me in the 30, so that was a goal of mine starting the year was to finish top 30 out here. So all in all it's been good, I played well this year.

Q. I've heard Tom Lehman say a couple of times that something that guys learn when they hit 50 and start playing this tour is that they have to make a decision and pick one or the other, it's really difficult to try and play both. Have you found that to be true this year? And I understand you're planning to play primarily on this tour next year, is that right?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, and that's more a function of the fact that I didn't play well enough on the regular tour. It kind of forced my hand now. But it makes it easier, yeah. But even so, this year was basic -- I knew it was going to be like this, but going forward I knew that I couldn't keep this pace up so I would gradually be playing more and more over here anyway. And because I didn't play as well there, it kind of worked itself out. I'll play four or five over there probably, but most of it will be here and I've enjoyed every week over here, I really have.

Q. Why is that the case, why is it so hard to go back and forth? Is it just the travel or the scheduling difficulties or just adjusting to the style of play? There is, I think, a distinct difference in the style of play, isn't there?

JOE DURANT: I think there is. I think the big tour has changed in the respect that the golf courses have gotten so big and so long and that the basic course setup for the most part's changed, too. I think it rewards guys that bomb it. My rookie year on tour, if you didn't hit it in the fairway, you were toast. There was a direct correlation between total driving and the money list. Now, there's a correlation between distance and money list but not accuracy and distance, so I think it's changed in that respect. And the kids are better, they're longer, they're more physical. It's just a combination of things. It's tough for a guy who's an average hitter like myself to do well out there.

Q. What about the mindset that 54 holes opposed to 72 holes? I mean, you see it every week out here where if somebody doesn't open with a 64 or 3 or something crazy like that, you're kind of toast.

JOE DURANT: Yeah, that's what makes this tour difficult. With the exception of the four-day events we play, the three-dayers, you've got to get going. You can't piddle around the first day and expect to do well unless you can go out and do like Fred did at Calgary and shoot 61 or something the last day. Guys shoot too good of numbers out here to be in neutral.

Q. In the past few years they've been jumping back and forth between here and San Francisco and Harding Park. I'm just curious what you think about this course and the idea of playing here the next -- for three straight years rather than kind of doing the back and forth thing?

JOE DURANT: I know the guys enjoying playing here, for sure. I've never played Harding Park so I'm not familiar with it. I think it's a beautiful venue for it and I think the guys are excited it's going to be here for a couple years. I mean, knowing the golf course, that always helps you. I know guys have obviously played here, what was it two years ago it was here last? So there's a history here obviously. To have a little continuity for it is nice, but to move it around too gives some other venues a chance to host it, which is great. So there's benefits to both sides of it.

Q. I caught just a little piece of the Golf Channel interview there where you were talking about the ordinary Joe persona. You're comfortable with that, that's okay, right?

JOE DURANT: I'm fine with it. Like I said, I live a normal life. Normal as normal can be these days, I guess, just trying to get kids in and out of college and trying to be home as much as I can between events. I'm a very blessed man. I have a great life, I have a great family and I wouldn't trade anything for the world. I'm very happy being

ordinary.

Q. Extraordinary life for an ordinary Joe?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, that's right. I over-married, for sure.

DAVE SENKO: Any **more questions? Thanks, Joe.**

JOE DURANT: You've got it, thank you.