

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: JOE DURANT
August 27, 2016



DAVE SENKO: Well, Joe, 7-under 65 today and 10 under, it looks right now you're, I think, one back. Maybe just get us started, talk about your round.

JOE DURANT: Today was just kind of a continuation of yesterday. I played very solid yesterday, no bogeys yesterday. Putted much better, I didn't make very many putts yesterday. Just had the one bogey which was a three-putt today. Other than that, played really well. Hit some good iron shots and converted when I needed to.

DAVE SENKO: Much different weather-wise, obviously the temperature was different but condition-wise, any wind or anything was a factor today?

JOE DURANT: On the range we were kind of wondering if it was going to blow because it was really ripping down the range but by the time we got to the tee it kind of tapered off. Similar to yesterday. Maybe the wind might have been just a little bit of a different direction, but it was still, obviously great scores again today.

DAVE SENKO: Birdies, if you want to start at No. 4.

JOE DURANT: Let me think, what hole's No. 4? 4, I hit driver and a sand wedge to about eight feet and made that. 5, driver, wedge to about 15 feet, made that.

DAVE SENKO: And the par 5?

JOE DURANT: Par 5 I drove it in the fairway bunker, I had to lay up and hit a really good wedge in there to about three feet, made birdie there.

DAVE SENKO: And you hit back-to-back 10 and 11?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, 10 was a 3-wood and a wedge to about eight feet. 11 was driver, sand wedge to about three feet, four feet.

DAVE SENKO: And then the par 3?

JOE DURANT: 5-iron to about three feet, maybe four feet. 14 I laid up off the tee, I hit 3-wood and then I hit a wedge to about three feet. No. 18, I drove it, I didn't quite reach the fairway, I was in the rough so I had to lay up, but I hit driver, 7-iron, wedge to about three feet, made that. So my wedge game was good today.

Q. Last year you didn't have a lot of success in this tournament. Was that just because you didn't play well? I mean, how's this course fit your game?

JOE DURANT: I just had a really bad first day last year. I remember, I think it was playing pretty firm and fast last year and I just hit some bad shots and just didn't get much out of my round. I like the golf course a lot though. It's pretty generous off the tee but you've got to hit good iron shots and I typically am a pretty good iron player. You've got to manage your game a little bit around here. You've got to pick your spots because they can put some pins in some corners and greens get firm, you can go through some of the greens pretty easily. Or if you put them in the green-side bunkers, you're begging for mercy, you don't want to be in these bunkers.

Q. Obviously you're having a really good year, third on the -- must have a lot of confidence right now?

JOE DURANT: I'm playing well. I had a bad first day at the U.S. Senior Open, but played three good rounds after that. I mean, good shape there and I had won the week before, but it was just the continuation of about a month and a half of good play. Really since Des Moines I played pretty well, been very happy with my game.

Q. Looking forward to tomorrow?

JOE DURANT: I am, yeah, looking forward to playing.

Q. Is this a course where someone could shoot 59?

JOE DURANT: I don't know if there's a course on the planet they can't shoot 59 on anymore. The guys are just so good, if they get hot with the flat stick, if you take advantage of the par 5s, you can shoot a low one for sure.

Q. A bunch of guys have a chance to win tomorrow. I know that's exciting for the fans. What's it like for you guys when you've got just a big group of guys when you've got a big group of guys with a chance to win?

JOE DURANT: It's exciting for us, especially when you have conditions where it's kind of benign out there where you can really be aggressive. You know you're going to have to shoot 4, 5, 6 under at least to have a shot so it makes for an interesting day. I tend to watch the scoreboards so it makes it even that much more fun to see what the guys are doing.

Q. I was in Miami in 2001 when you won your second straight tournament and obviously that was an incredible stretch you had going there. Do you think back about that a lot? Obviously half your wins were in a two-week period.

JOE DURANT: Right, yeah. You try to remember what you were doing but sometimes it's so long ago it's hard to remember some of those things. But everyone runs through periods where you have down periods and you have periods where you're playing well and the hole looks like a bucket and you just try to take advantage of those times when it feels like it's a little easier.