

JAY DON BLAKE (-4)

Q. You got off to a fast start there with three birdies on the front nine. How did you feel coming out this morning?

JAY DON BLAKE: You know, the year's been a long year. It's been kind of a frustrating year. But I've been working on my game pretty hard. I see a lot of signs of things improving, but they never seem to multiply on the golf course. Seem to kind of get in my way a lot. So I don't know what to expect. I mean, like I said, I've been working hard at it, hitting it pretty decent. Just if I can kind of stay out of my way, I can play rounds like today. I hit it well all day. The birdies I made were kind of close birdies, I didn't really have any long ones at all and I even missed two or three birdie putts also. So I hit it pretty good. Back nine I just didn't get any birdie putts to go in and missed a little tiny short one to make a bogey. But all in all, I played well, hit it good. Just tried to stay as patient as I could without kind of thinking too far ahead of myself.

Q. What were you thinking on that potential eagle putt you had up there that was just --

JAY DON BLAKE: Well, sometimes you want to have an eagle putt that you can be aggressive at, but that was downhill and breaking about four feet. So I was hoping to trickle it down there to at least make sure I could make birdie. If it went in, it went in. If not, I wanted to make a birdie for sure.

Q. Sounds good. What were the conditions like?

JAY DON BLAKE: Early it was a little tougher. You get in the fairways, you've got that moisture that's hard to kind of control the distance of some of the shots because they're kind of flying a little bit. And it was cooler so the ball wasn't going as far either. As the day progressed, the ball started going kind of normal distances and kind of got back to what we kind of felt normal, the dew's gone and it wasn't too bad.

Q. So with this strong first round, what are you going to take into your next round now, just one stroke off the lead?

JAY DON BLAKE: I'll just try to do the same thing. Just get it in the short stuff as often as you can. I mean, it makes it a lot easier for the shots going into the greens. And you've really got to stay on the right side of the hole as in every green seems to be sloping from front to back, but then there's that dominant river that's over here that everything breaks towards. If you can stay short and even if you get pin high, you're going to have a lot of breaking putts. So I'm trying to stay just slightly short if anything, trying not to be real

aggressive and go beyond the hole because then you're always playing cautious golf then. So just hit some fairways and try to be smart with the shots going into the green and hope the putter gets hot.