

Q. Jordan, heck of a finish there, birdie your last three holes to really reclaim the round.

JORDAN SPIETH: Thank you. The game felt really good today. I was sitting at 1 under and very pleased with the way I was playing. Even my bogey I didn't really feel like I missed a shot. I put in a lot of work the last few days and we're starting to get something out of it. The game feels really good right now. I thought that 4 under kind of felt more like a 6 under to me, but that means that good things are coming.

Q. Tell me about that 5-iron you hit into the 216-yard par-3 9th.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah. So in the swing I've just had a little trouble aligning correctly and therefore a little trouble committing. So I hit some iron shots that were kind of weak and a little to the right today, but I stood on that tee with a good number and very much committed and just hit a flush high draw with that 5. Wasn't sure exactly where it was going to land, but obviously to be in there within four feet was a bonus. That hole's going to play pretty tough today.

Q. I'm curious about your iron into the 3rd. Did you catch a mud ball there? It kind of just kind of fell out of the air by the green.

JORDAN SPIETH: No, it was -- I hit it into a pretty common area on the right side and I was surprised it bounced. And when it crossed the cart path and it was sitting not so great in the rough, I thought there was potential for it to be a flyer but I thought off the up-slope it wouldn't. I tried to just punch it, and right when I struck it it just jumped. So I was trying to just hit the fat part of the green but the ball flew an extra 15 to 20 yards on me and ended up in a tough spot. Then I tried to force it the next hole.

So those two were just bad club choices but they were actually really good shots. So I'm going to take confidence out of the round today, for sure.

Q. Has the game been testing your patience lately?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, absolutely. Been kind of testing how I feel about myself more than anything, just kind of, yeah, myself confidence. I've been putting in some good work on and off the golf course and I feel really good about today's round. It was an exciting day for me. I was talking as if I shot 8 or 9 under, but sometimes you've just got to take one step forward to start climbing up the hill again.

Q. Remember, you ended the day with three straight birdies, carry that momentum with you.

JORDAN SPIETH: Thank you, Fred.

Q. Jordan, you talked about wanting a round where you felt like you could push it. Was that it?

JORDAN SPIETH: No, not quite. That was -- I felt like I shot 4 or 5 under today the way that I played. There was a little bit of lack of commitment through the swing, but I had some really rough range sessions the last two days so I started to get a feeling that I really liked and I committed the last few holes and that was fantastic.

A couple -- a striped 4-iron on the par 5 and then a striped 5-iron into 18, so I feel like good things are coming. This golf course is very gettable today, so that will put me -- those last three holes kept me at least in this golf tournament and that's all I can ask for after day one. That was the best first round I've had in a long time.

Q. Jordan, what are the differences in terms of contending versus just playing with next week in mind? Would it mean a lot to you?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, feeling the nerves, feeling what you'll feel from the get-go next week, and therefore being able to kind of figure out where parts of your game are under that and what changes from when you feel comfortable, if anything at all.

But yeah, working my way into contention on the weekend would be key. This golf course hasn't historically been fantastic for me compared to other golf courses, it's more of kind of a bomber's paradise, but I'm hitting my driver really well right now. If I keep trusting that, then I should have as good a chance as anybody around here.

Q. You had those two bogeys and that could have knocked you off track but you recovered brilliantly.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, especially holes 5 and 6 are kind of back-to-back two of my least favorite of the year on the tee. So bogeying two holes that are kind of birdie-able right before that was frustrating. Especially I didn't feel like I missed a shot on those holes, I just picked two wrong clubs.

So I hit great shots into 5, 6 and 7 there around the corner there with the water on those holes, good committed golf shots that I was looking forward to. And committing to them took a chance of potentially shooting 1 over today, but it's also what's necessary in order to make birdie. So very proud of the way that those last five holes went, absolutely.

Q. Did you think there was ever a chance you would be able to call this one one of your better first rounds in a while?

JORDAN SPIETH: After what?

Q. After 15 holes?

JORDAN SPIETH: I still felt really good about it. I missed my par putt on 3, walked over to Michael and told him that was one of the best feeling putts I've hit in a year. It was just kind of like just trying to get everything set up correctly and then building confidence off of that, seeing putts hit my lines. Sometimes you just get off in alignment and your eyes don't match the putter, and that's where I've been. That's where I've been working hard to get back. It was certainly a step forward today. It doesn't mean that every day's going to get better and better and better, but obviously that's the goal.

Q. Jordan, you talked last week about how much you're looking forward to next week, but can that carry over to today knowing you're headed to a good place and those good feelings kind of carry over?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I thought today was a very positive day for me, and certainly excited about what the rest of the week holds now. This golf course, though, I've shot under par and missed the cut; I've shot under par on the first round. This course can get anything out of you if you don't stay committed off the tee on a lot of these holes. It's just, it's very difficult. Every single hole requires a certain shot or there's water lurking or whatever it may be.

So I'm going to stay very present this week, not think about next week at all because what I did today was successful and that's what I'm hoping to keep doing.

Q. They always talk about how this course is set up to mimic Augusta, it's one of the things they promote.

JORDAN SPIETH: The condition.

Q. Is that -- from a player's viewpoint, is that more just -- is that really true?

JORDAN SPIETH: I mean, it's so well manicured. It's tough when it's this wet like it was today, but it's so well manicured and it's a similar grass type until you get on the greens. The greens are obviously different at Augusta. But the rest of it, the bunkers, the way the bunkering are, the different levels of greens, the shots that you're forced to hit and commit to are very similar. And then the condition of the golf course itself. So I think it's a great setup and that's why -- I mean, there's a reason I keep coming to play here other than I love staying in the state of Texas, playing in the state of Texas, but there's certainly something added to it.

Q. Jordan, if you had to rate that round today 9 out of 10, what do you think you would give it?

JORDAN SPIETH: You know, going into this week I call that a 9 out of 10 for me today on the rebound on kind of where I've been my last two tournaments. Yeah, it was 9 out of 10. Only way it gets to 10 out of 10 is to be in the lead, right? So working our way.