

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
March 30, 2018



JORDAN SPIETH (-9)

Q. Another round in the 60s. Just how happy are you, what's that done for confidence these two rounds so far?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, a lot. Honestly, my goal for the week's been accomplished just in two rounds. Just trying to show some consistency and make some birdies, see a couple putts go in. I don't really need to see a whole lot for next week, but it is nice to work my way into contention, and obviously tomorrow the goal is to stay that way. If I can improve at all on my position going into Sunday, then I'll have a chance.

Q. Let's have a look. We know what the iron play, the wedge play's like from you. This was, what, 102, 103 yards out at 10?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, 102 yards downwind. I just took a big lob wedge, I knew I could land it short. Landed on the downslope, took the spin off. It was a really good number to have, led to a nice birdie there to get to 3 under for the day.

Q. You had five out of six birdies when this one goes in from just over 30 feet.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, this one was certainly a bonus. I hit it too hard. Right when I hit it, I said oh, jeez, hit the hole. But sometimes when you're playing well that happens, those seem to go in, and when you're not playing well they seem to find a way to miss the hole. But that was really nice to see something from range go in. I'm feeling better about my strokes, and all in all I'm just looking to get more consistent every single day.

Q. The putter seems to be getting warmer and warmer, still a little bit cold at times. But what is your confidence like generally standing over it with putter in hand?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, a lot of progress over the last five days. It's been I guess a week now. There's been I would say 75, 80 percent back to ready to contend at the highest level. So if I can inch my way five percent a day, then we'll be ready to go by next week.

Q. Finally, anything more you're looking from this weekend before you head to Augusta?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, a little more consistency off the tee. Stats will show that I'm driving the ball pretty well this week, but I kind of want to get one consistent ball flight I can play on command. I'm kind of fading the sides away from where the trouble is instead of really taking stuff on, so a little more committed off the tee would be nice.

Q. Jordan, two things, how well have you gotten to know Beau, and he's playing out at Trinity Forest. What's your home course?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I play at Dallas National and Trinity Forest. I know Beau very well. We both actually are out at Trinity practicing together quite a bit. He's been working really hard on his game. I know he's seen my instructor, Cameron, a few times. We actually played a practice round this week together, so we played 15 holes together this week. He was playing really well. It's no surprise that he's towards the top. He's not afraid of -- not afraid of being at the top either, so he's one of the guys that is a strong contender this weekend, no doubt.

Q. Were you involved in trying to recruit him to UT?

JORDAN SPIETH: Not a whole lot. You know, Coach here or there would ask us to reach -- I mean, there's only I think so much you can do. We could do more than any of the coaches could do. But I grew up, my last two or three years of junior golf I actually played against Beau a lot and we talked about Texas a lot obviously trying to recruit him. I went a year and a half and he went a semester early, so it was a transition of I leave and he comes in right at that semester. So we weren't able to play at Texas at the same time, but Texas, when I left they had a stud coming in that was taking over.

Q. Jordan, was this the kind of round you were looking for going into the week?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah. I mean, from where I was three days ago, goal accomplished for the week already and it's Friday. So at this point anything else is icing on the cake. It's kind of weird to say that, but just trying to take a step forward every single day. I thought today was a step forward from yesterday. It's a round that could have been really special, but I don't have to have an 8 or 9 under round. I feel like my game's in form and that's really cool. I'm having a lot of fun out there.

Q. When you get this close to the Masters, are you trying to work more on specific mechanics with your swing or is it more trying to achieve a state of mind?

JORDAN SPIETH: Both equally. You know, for me a lot of when the mechanics feel sound, that generates a very sound mind. I've been able to generate a sound mind even when mechanics aren't great, which you have to have in order to still actually have a chance. Obviously when mechanics are there, it kind of boosts that extra level and makes you feel like if you're patient enough, you're going to work your way in versus having to do something to get into contention.

So these last two days I played this golf course probably as well as I've ever played it, being patient and committing to shots when I needed to but staying away from the trouble when I needed to and let it come to me. So more of the same this weekend hopefully.

Q. You always come here to play in Houston. Is it important to keep the competitive

juices flowing going into the Masters for you?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I don't play before every major. Sometimes it's worked, sometimes it hasn't. I've won two majors having weeks off before and I've won the Masters obviously playing here.

I enjoy playing this golf course and this golf tournament before Augusta given the conditions. The conditions are as similar as we see as far as the manicured fairways and the light rough, and it's a little more of a bomber's paradise here and less about how you control the ball on the greens. But there are similarities that make it a good week before the major.

Q. Specifically your putting, obviously that's been a constant conversation. Can you just address that specifically these two days?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, it's been very solid. It's felt as good -- Riviera I putted the ball beautifully. It's felt up there, pretty close. I'm trying to make progress each day, and each day this week I have, so obviously going into tomorrow that's a similar goal. It's just getting comfortable, matching line and speed, feeling like I have a nice fluid stroke, and I did a really good job of that from the first hole today.