

JORDAN SPIETH (-16)

Q. Jordan Spieth, kind enough to stop by after a final round 66. Jordan, you said after Saturday's round you weren't patient enough with this golf course. When was the line where you approach of trying to be patient yet you had a lot of work to do, you started the day 4 back?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, today starting 4 back on a very gettable golf course is a difficult place to come back from. You kind of need a really flawless round. I got started on 1 and 2, hit great putts that didn't go in. I finally got one to go on 3 and that's when I kind of settled down a little bit. Eagled 4 and then we were running. I had some chances today, I really did. I had an opportunity to shoot 8 or 9 under. I'm very pleased with my 6 under. Goal accomplished for the week, and I've made some big strides from my last couple tournaments. I'm very excited with what next week holds.

Q. What was your sense when you made the turn after shooting 4 under on the front side, do you think I've got a chance to win this golf tournament?

JORDAN SPIETH: I saw Ian started hot, but at the same time 17 and 18 can be very difficult to play safety golf on. So with 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 being wedge holes, I thought there was an opportunity to shoot 4 under again on the back, and I thought maybe getting to 18 under would be good enough if I posted early. So it was kind of at the turn I thought "maybe." And I took an aggressive line on 10, made bogey, and then it was come back from there, but come back we did. It was nice to capitalize with the par putt on 18.

Q. Jordan, you lead the tournament in strokes gained, tee to green strokes gained, approach to the green, putting was solid today, I thought that was one of your more solid rounds of the entire season. Your thoughts?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I thought so, too. You know, it takes work sometimes and it just takes -- for me with the short game and the putting, it's just been about trying to have the putter match my eyes. That's it, it's simple. It's in setup and I've been trying to kind of get back to the setup that I had a couple years ago on 16 and 15 where I putted so well, just trying to give me that same posture so I can see the same thing.

Today, under the gun to be able to trust what maybe felt a little uncomfortable but I knew was correct, and then to see some of those putts from four to eight feet go right in the middle of the hole, that was extremely satisfying and I felt really good about the strokes I hit. Yeah, I mean going forward, there was big strides made this week.

Q. Tell me about the eagle out at the 4th.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I had the ball a little above my feet and a hybrid in from about 235, somewhere in there into the wind. I lined up towards the water to play a fade and I really trusted my line there. I've been striking the ball really well, but I've only -- I had only hit one other hybrid this entire week on the golf course other than that one. So it was one where it was -- we're way back, we've got to make something happen. As I struck it, it faded right towards the hole, got up to whatever it was, five feet left edge, and capitalized on an eagle there to feel like I had a chance.

Q. And a 29-footer to close out the tournament. Will that travel 900 miles east this week?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I think the whole week travels east. That putt was -- I hit three poor shots and then a really good one at the end and sometimes that's how it works. You know, I feel great about the way I'm striking the ball. Seeing that putt go in is beautiful, especially when I knew I had to make it. I hadn't looked at the board, I didn't know if Ian had dropped to 16 or 17 or where Beau was, so in my mind I thought it was as important as any putt I've hit. To see it go in the middle of the hole is a nice bonus and certainly a confidence booster.

Q. Jordan, what's this like as you wait to see (inaudible)?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I saw those guys at 18 under with flip wedges into 15, and 16's playing easy today, and 17 and 18 are difficult. But I got Emiliano ahead of me and he's on 18; if he pars, it's already over. Or he's on 17. It's unlikely, but I knew going into it, I thought that I had to get to 17 under today and I thought that would be a playoff. I wanted to get 6 before 18, make some magic happen on 18. All I had to do was get it in two shots to the middle of the green and I got it in three shots to the middle of the green. But I knew if I had a putt that I needed that I would will it in. I'm a little upset with kind of the first few shots there on 18, but very, very pleased with the round today whether it goes my way or not.

Q. You played here consistently now for five or six years. The tournament's without a sponsor, it's looking for one. How important is this tournament to you, to the Tour, the history of it, what it brings and what it means to you?

JORDAN SPIETH: I've certainly enjoyed it, I love playing in my home state of Texas. The Greater Houston area, especially off of what happened earlier this year, it's amazing to see kind of how things have rebounded. I talked to Rickie a lot about the stuff he was doing with Farmers and I reached out to JJ Watt in that process and what he's done for this city, too. It's a great sports city, which as players on the PGA TOUR we should obviously welcome going to a city like Houston.

Q. Jordan, with a strong Sunday finish, a close call here, there are going to be some parallels to 2015. How does your confidence stack up here versus how you felt at this point then?

JORDAN SPIETH: I joked to Michael, I said I don't necessarily want to win, I want to get close because that looks like 2015. But if we get into a playoff, I'll surely be trying to win.

Yeah, I've played really poorly here and had the lead on the back nine of Augusta twice. I've played it well here and won there. I mean, it's just -- it's a crapshoot, it doesn't really make a difference.

I believe going into next week that I have an opportunity to win no matter how the state of my game is from the previous week. But the progress that was made in the last eight or nine days has been as much as I've made in eight or nine days in my career, and I need to continue to do that. There's a lot of work left. I was still very much in the negative strokes gained putting this week, and to have a chance to win and be negative strokes gained putting is frustrating because I believe it's a strength of my game. So today was a huge step forward. I believe I was positive today in strokes gained, which is probably the first I've been in a whole.