

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**August 2, 2018**

**JASON DAY ( -5)**



**JASON DAY:** So let's just get the Tiger questions out of the way first here. (Laughs.)

No, no, he played good. It was good. He -- yeah, he's playing well. He missed a couple of easy birdie attempts, I think just either misreads or just didn't hit a putt well, but for the most part his iron play's off the charts. The distance control is nice. When he does miss it, it's not too far away, lands pretty much pin high or is around pin high when it finishes. So if he gets on the fairway here, and I can understand why he plays so well here with how -- obviously you can kind of get away with hitting 3-wood around here, which he does really well, but he took out a driver a few times today and just kind of missed it a little bit right. But his iron play's so good around here with kind of the smallish greens and his putting, he played solid today. Just unfortunate he bogeyed the last hole.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah. Well, you know what, everyone talks about how he's a mentor. He's not that anymore because we're playing against each other. He's still a good friend, and when we're out there playing a competition against each other, it's me or him, so I've got to try and do the best job I can to try and beat him. He's won eight times around here, so it's always nice to be able to go out there and shoot a score like I did, try and move myself up the leaderboard.

**Q. Last year when he was struggling with his back, is there anything that surprises you about how quickly he's been able to get back to this point?**

**JASON DAY:** Is it quick? Is it?

**Q. Well, Rory thought it was quick.**

**JASON DAY:** He's won 79 times, right? You lose the touch of it. It's like anything, you lose touch of it but it's in there somewhere. Once you find the confidence, then he's not too far away, he's not too far away from going on a pretty big tear here. We just hopefully stay out in front of him. He's hitting it -- like I said, he's hitting his iron really nicely. If he straightens that driver a little bit, give himself a few more opportunities. The putter, he's obviously gone away from the old Scotty, he's in an Ardmore 3 from TaylorMade. He putted all right today. Bombed in a couple long ones, which was nice. Yeah, I don't think it's as quick as you think it is. I mean, how many events has he played this year?

**Q. 12, 13.**

**JASON DAY:** 13. I mean, that's more than enough to get back to competitive -- I mean, you can see how well he's moving. He's got a lot of speed, he's moving well. It's not like he's limping around like he was when he played -- I played with him at the Farmers, I think, a couple years ago and then flew across to Dubai and you could tell he was walking gingerly. He's not walking gingerly at all. When you have speed and he -- you know, when everything's balanced in his life and he can focus on golf, then maybe -- you know, once again, he played pretty well at the start of the year and obviously he's close to tearing it up.

**Q. When you say he's close to going on a tear, you and Rory and others control whether that actually happens.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, yeah.

**Q. So what do you need to do? Does this elevate your game automatically, or like how do you guys stay out front of that?**

**JASON DAY:** It's just hard to control -- you can't control what he does. If he goes out and shoots 20-something under and you can't do that, then you're getting outplayed. More so than ever, we have to work harder and try and, you know, better our skills, especially in this -- we've got a pretty condensed schedule coming up here, so it's imperative for us to make sure that we're staying on top of our skill level and staying on top of the sharpness of our game.

And it's more so -- it's deep in your head and your heart, that's the biggest thing. He's out there and he's focused. I mean, you could tell he wants it because he's taking a good long time hitting these putts. And that's not only five-, 10-footers, it's over every putt. It looks like he wants to hole every putt. So saying that, we've got to do the same or even more to try and stay out in front of him that way.