

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 2, 2018

MARC LEISHMAN (-5)



Q. Marc, it was a good round today. Is this about as scorable as you've ever seen this golf course today?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, definitely. Greens were good; soft but not too soft that you had to worry about a whole lot of spin. Fairways were softish and the rough's not too bad. So yeah, definitely as easy as I've seen it for -- well, probably ever.

Q. I know you're friends with Jarrod. I'm sure you've been asked about this, but just comment on this week.

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, obviously devastating news. He's fought a long, hard fight and unfortunately it's got the better of him. But I think the worst thing is with the young family. I've got three young kids and obviously he's got two little girls, so that's going to be hard for them, and of course Briony. And it's horrible for Jarrod as well. So yeah, it's just bad all around. You know, obviously we're all thinking of him and, you know -- yeah, I mean, what do you say?

Q. Any part of you want to kind of win it for him or anything?

MARC LEISHMAN: Big part of me wants to win it, yeah. That would be very nice to obviously have a good week for myself, but it would be great to have a beer out of that trophy for him. Yeah, I mean, you don't really need extra motivation, but if there was any, that's a pretty good reason.

So yeah, you know, it's a very sad week. A good friend of mine battling as hard as he is, yeah, it's tough. We've just got to hope that he stays strong and his family stays strong and we'll support them and give them whatever they need.

Q. I think you hit three fairways and 12 greens. Does 65 surprise you?

MARC LEISHMAN: Well, I guess when you put it that way, it is. (Laughs.) I've actually felt like I drove it pretty decently. I was in the first cut probably three or four times, and then, you know, just a yard into the deep stuff a few times on the right side of the fairway. That was -- yeah, when you put it that way, it's impressive. On the other side, I had four 2s on the card, so to go through four holes in eight shots, that certainly doesn't hurt the scorecard, either.

Q. Fantastic opening round, 5-under 65. We've looked at the fairways over the years, a lot of slope left to right, driving accuracy numbers are not always as high as they

are elsewhere. How difficult is it out here off the tee?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, it's really hard off the tee. The fairways aren't that wide and there's a lot of straight shots. You know, generally if it's curving one way or the other, you can shape it that way, and the fairway seems to be wider. Yeah, it is tough to drive it here. My numbers may not have reflected a very good driving day, but if I missed the fairway, it was in the right spot. Yeah, happy with the start.

Q. A couple runner-up finishes this season, you finished third on this golf course back in 2014. You're a high ball hitter, a lot of elevation on these greens. How much does that height help you?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, it helps for sure. You know, when it's soft like this I wouldn't say it's a huge advantage, but certainly when it's firm it's helpful to be able to spin the ball a lot and come in at that angle. Yeah, hoping I can play good the next few days and use that to my advantage.