

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
February 16, 2019

JORDAN SPIETH (-8)



Q. Jordan, different score, for sure. Mostly putting, statistically it's there, but that's always kind of a fooler.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, it really was chipping. You know, I chipped two in, and then today I just hit some kind of poor chips, really 10, 11, 16, where I had opportunities to get up and down for birdie or par, so those I made yesterday and today I didn't.

And then I played the par 5s just a couple strokes better. So I told Michael I hit the ball and actually played a better round than the first round and the score didn't reflect it, where the first round I didn't quite play as well as my score. So I feel like I'm about where I should be and progressing the right direction, which is nice. Just clean up a little bit around the greens and maybe knock a couple extra putts in.

Q. Can you help us out a little bit with the situation and what the officials may have told you when you signed your scorecard; tee-off times and what time they thought you guys might be restarting?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, so I think it's 2:45 for start time and then they'll go around two hours to the leaner groups, so I'll probably about around 4:20, 4:30 and maybe get an hour, hour and a half worth of golf in. That puts me maybe at number four or five. So a couple hours off, go get some lunch, hang low and then maybe just do some short game work and hit a couple balls.

Q. Good news really, you get to play more golf today as opposed to what you've got to do tomorrow?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, yeah, play more golf today and then hopefully come out hot out of the gates tomorrow. Get off to a decent start this evening, maybe try and grab a birdie or two just to get some confidence going to sleep tonight, then get ready for the trek tomorrow. You're going to stay in the same group, so scoreboard watching doesn't do a whole lot of good on this golf course, it makes you think so much. So you just try and play the spots and wait for kind of the good numbers to make birdies.

Q. Stuff around the greens, was that execution or was that decisions you made on how to play a shot?

JORDAN SPIETH: A little bit of execution, a little bit of -- I would say I made a bad decision on 11 but the others were just execution where it gets caught in this kikuyu and it's just tough. It looks so easy, but then when a little grass can get in between the clubface and the

ball, it goes from being this tight spinner to a knuckleball just with two blades of grass because the grass is so thick.

So my shot on 16, in order to get it close I almost have to play like a full swing flop even though I'm only 12 feet from the hole and it looks like it's sitting good. So it's tough because it's all lie dependent on what shot you need to hit. When you go kikuyu into poa annua, it's just kind of anything can happen. That's why I was very pleased with holing a couple of them yesterday because they actually -- it always looks easier than it actually is on this grass. But, you know, I know what I did wrong, I know how to adjust it and hopefully just hit 18 greens and not worry about it.

Q. With the conditions as it is and all the waiting, is it more taxing physically or mentally?

JORDAN SPIETH: Probably physically. You know, this has been something like seven out of eight days I've been up at 5:00 a.m., so that's tough, and tomorrow's no different. Luckily, next week I think the tee times are a little bit easier. You know, going from last week to this week with the same conditions where it's kind of softer ground and then getting up early, it can be physically taxing. But I should have an advantage, being 25, over most of the other guys, so it's nothing to complain about.

Q. Is it a bit harder to make the progress in your game with the difficulty of the last two weeks, what you were just talking about, making strides (inaudible)?

JORDAN SPIETH: Putting on poa annua doesn't really help me make a lot of progress. You're more just kind of dealing with what you can deal with.

But condition-wise, yeah. Ideally for me right now, the more full kind of free flowing full high ball swings, something like next week is actually better for me. And the sawed-off shots you need to hit are just much more difficult because my timing's a bit off, so that makes it certainly a challenge.

I had a few pitching wedges early in the round today that I played the holes 1 over instead of under par trying to hit like sawed-off pitching wedges. Those shots when I'm on are just really simple for me. Softer conditions for me right now aren't necessarily ideal, but at the same time I feel like I'm striking the ball well enough to have a chance to win the golf tournament.

Q. Similar position as last week, it didn't go as well last week and you said you're a little bit off. Do you feel like your game's good enough that you can put four together?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, I feel different right now than I did after two rounds last week. I feel like it's consistent enough to be able to continue to actually get a little better each round instead of kind of falling off, especially with the long clubs. I still have work to do, which is

nice. I can continue to do the feeling I'm working on, even more so on the golf course, and as long as I continue to commit to that, good shots are coming.

Q. What do you think of seeing Justin at 11 having played in the tougher half of the draw?

JORDAN SPIETH: Justin playing in the tougher half?

Q. Yeah.

JORDAN SPIETH: Is that -- did you do the math on that score-wise?

Q. Weather-wise, condition-wise.

JORDAN SPIETH: I think you missed our first round then. I was trying to figure out if we were a stroke or two strokes on the bad end.

Either way, it doesn't matter. The point is, we're through two rounds now, it's an even playing field and there's three guys at -- the three guys that are at 11 or 10 happen to be in the harder side of the draw. And man, they played really well because of that, I guess.

No, I think I'm going to have to duplicate my score, even improve on that for the next two days in order to have a chance to win this tournament with the softer golf course. So it's more of play aggressive when you get your good numbers instead of what Riviera normally is, which is play to your spots and try and take advantage of the par 5s and maybe 10 and hold on for dear life. It's a different mentality now.