

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
23 October 2019



JORDAN SPIETH

NICK PARKER: Hello, everyone. I would like to welcome Jordan Spieth into the media center here at the ZOZO Championship.

Jordan, I know you've made a start in 2014 in Japan, but just talk about what it's like to be back. I know you haven't seen the golf course yet, but your excitement to be here at the ZOZO Championship.

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, very excited. I loved my time at the Dunlop Phoenix. The fans were incredible, the golf courses are beautiful in this country and the showing yesterday was insane for the weather that we had. That was as incredible a welcome as we've felt in as long as I can remember there on a Tuesday in bad weather. Especially playing with Hideki this week, expect it to be pretty exciting out there. Off of last week, just trying to gain some momentum, continue to progress in the right direction and give myself chances on the weekend.

NICK PARKER: Like to open it up for questions, just please raise your hand and we'll bring the microphone if you would like to ask one.

Q. Some really good things last week at CJ Cup I thought in your game. Can you just talk about that and how that boosts your confidence coming into this week?

JORDAN SPIETH: I felt that I drove the ball better, and then on and around the greens, I was really on last week. Felt good. Made some mid-range putts Friday, Saturday and Sunday that kept me in the tournament, allowed for a low score on Friday to kind of boost myself up the board. I like the fire power that I had, but still kind of too many mistakes to be able to win the golf tournament. I had enough birdies to get the job done, just too many over-par holes and that's just a bit of consistency. So I'll owe a little bit of it to rust, so quite a bit of it, just continued work.

Q. Have you seen the course at all?

JORDAN SPIETH: Not yet, no.

Q. So how much is that going to affect you getting ready for tomorrow?

JORDAN SPIETH: Well, I have an 18-hole pro-am and then Michael walked it, too.

Q. (No microphone.)

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, it will be fine. I know of the layout of the course, I've looked through the yardage book already. So we're going to get different wind conditions. We're going to get some pretty interesting conditions this week in general with rain. So I think that actually helps if you don't have a ton of time to prepare because the ball's not going to be running through fairways, it's going to kind of stick where it lands, which should be able to figure that out just in one practice round.

But from what I hear, greens in regulation are important. They're small and very slopey greens, so keeping the ball tee to green in the right places and giving yourself just looks from the center of the putting surfaces. And I hear it's relatively straightforward. Some doglegs, but you just play out to one point and then play to the next point. So it's not ideal, but given the conditions we had yesterday and the travel in on Monday, it's what I've got this week.

Q. You did show some signs towards the end of the season. I just wondered was there any sort of maybe a thought of trying to keep going and to capture that or was it more important to get away and go home and work on it and get a rest, that sort of thing?

JORDAN SPIETH: Yeah, it was more important to get away. It was still kind of a frustrating struggle. I started to putt really well the second half of the year, that was keeping some rounds alive, but all in all I kind of needed to hit the reset button with the ball-striking and then take some time away, play some kind of fun golf, stop thinking so much and then work my way back with some kind of movement stuff that I had gotten away from. So I felt like it was the right plan.

Then I have these few weeks here of on-course reps to kind of try what I've been practicing and try to progress through those, find out which shots are still kind of a little uncomfortable and which ones become comfortable. Hopefully, the latter is the majority of the shots as these weeks go on and then I can go into kind of the next break and I'll have a better gauge of where things are to be able to plan for the new year.

Q. I was reading the Tour's banned substance list recently and it's rather extensive, to say the least. I wanted to ask you, how familiar are you with it and how careful are you about what you can and can't put into your body?

JORDAN SPIETH: I would say I'm probably not incredibly familiar with it, to be honest, but before I take any kind of substance or medication that I'm not used to taking every day, I ask the question. I send a text and find out if it's on or off the list before I do it.

Q. And are there any things on it that you would like to see taken off of that you don't think should be on it?

JORDAN SPIETH: You know, some of the antihistamines, some of the stuff you would use for allergy medication, you know, that might be a little bit steroidal or that kind of for me is

somewhere where I don't think people are going to abuse anything for the game, they're more just trying to like feel normal. I get that sometimes in the spring, but I don't think I'm as bad as some people get it. So that's not like a personal thing, that's just in general, I think that would be better.

And then I mean, that's pretty much it. This big boost in kind of hemp oil and hemp cream, there's like a fine line with some of those right now because it's so early on where some of it has THC levels and some of it doesn't. I think as we move on the next year or so as that continues to kind of tighten up, I guess, the regulations in different places and brands become more prominent and it's easier to kind of figure out what's in everything, I think that will be easier then for us because that stuff's been kind of known to really help with what we do; you know, shins and feet and that kind of stuff, and even oils for just kind of helping to recover.

Hemp's not band, but THC is, so it's kind of a fine line there. I think that will be something that will be interesting in the coming years.