

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
November 23, 2018



D.J. TRAHAN (-15)

Q. I know that's not the way you wanted to finish but you're right there. How much confidence do you have going into Sunday?

D.J. TRAHAN: I've got a lot of confidence. Obviously I'm very disappointed with my finish. I mean, I was a couple feet away from hitting a good shot on 18 and unfortunately short-sided myself, but I played really well today. Unfortunately, I didn't finish strongly. I had 5 under there through 10 holes and made a couple bogeys down the stretch. I had opportunities, I just didn't get the ball in the hole, but I'm excited about tomorrow, for sure.

Q. When you think about everything you went through, is there a time when you thought maybe you might not get back to this position?

D.J. TRAHAN: Like I said yesterday, there was really a time where I was at the point where I was down and I thought about quitting the game just because I want to have fun. I think when you're struggling as badly as I was not only with my health but my mind, my game, everything, you get to a point where I'm like, this is no fun at all anymore.

But like I said, something happened and I kind of just dug in and I was able to turn the tides and I'm excited to be back, obviously. More importantly, for me it was just a matter of getting healthy first and foremost and I was able to do that, and then I was able to build from there. So I'm happy to be back.

And again, a disappointing finish today, but I'm right where I want to be. I certainly wish I was a few shots better, but I've got a great opportunity tomorrow, and if I can play a great round of golf I can still win the tournament.

Q. Along those lines, if you look at everything Brendon Todd's gone through in his career and for him to be in the position where he is now, about to win three in a row if he has the opportunity, can you put that in context?

D.J. TRAHAN: I think people at home know how special that is. I've been in that dark place and I'm pretty sure he's been right there with me. When you can dig yourself out of that hole, and never mind dig yourself out but do what he's doing right now, it is tremendous. My hat's off to him and I'm certainly trying to join him in that same category. But what he's done and what he is doing right now this week is spectacular.

I think it should let the viewers and everyone out there in the golfing world know it's like you can be down and out, but there's always hope if you can dig deep and find it. He's done that and I couldn't be more proud of him. I'm proud of myself honestly, I just haven't quite gotten

to where he is yet.

Q. That shot, looking back to Evansville, the final hole, the 72nd hole birdie, how much confidence did that give you?

D.J. TRAHAN: None. I mean, that's one shot, one hole. Honestly, I'm super stoked I hit it close and made the putt and made a birdie, but I've played a lot of golf and hit a lot of golf shots in my life and I expect to hit good shots every time I have an opportunity. The context of that one was obviously very important, but, you know, I've told everyone I was trying to make birdie on every hole coming down the stretch there. I wasn't trying to lolly gag my way home and hope it was going to be good enough. I was pedal to the metal.

So at the end of the day, being able to birdie the 72nd hole was very special. I mean, I guess it could have been the 71st or the 70th, but I just was proud of the way I played all day there. I knew I needed a good finish, I knew I needed a good round. I played a great round of golf that day and had some fireworks in the end basically.

Q. The reaction to get back there, get back there, go, is that a normal type of thing or was that kind of tied into the moment?

D.J. TRAHAN: Well, it was tied into the moment because, again, I said I knew I needed to make as many birdies as I could and I didn't really know where I stood because the points shift so much depending on what everybody around you does. It's not like knowing exactly where you stand in a tournament, okay, I'm sixth, I'm seventh. So I knew every birdie was extremely important.

And I hit a great shot, it was right at the flag, but I took the shorter of the two clubs that I had as an option to hit there because I didn't want to hit anything stupid like flush the longer one or hit it in the water behind the green if I caught a lull in the wind or something. So I went the aggressive route and took the shorter club, and when I hit it, I knew it needed to go, so that's why I was yelling at it.

Q. And lastly, from the two-dollar putter cover, is there a story behind that?

D.J. TRAHAN: When Clemson travels, everybody gives two-dollar bills and they stamp it with a Tiger paw. So, you know, the guys were kind enough to make that head cover for me over there at Swag Golf and it kind of represents the whole Clemson two-dollar bill tradition. For me, obviously I went to Clemson, it's a fun little tradition we do at Clemson when we travel. So it's a neat head cover, I've really enjoyed it since they got it to me.