

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
February 15, 2020



DUSTIN JOHNSON (-8)

Q. Dustin, nice play today, man. There's been so many birdies and eagles this week, but the mistakes have really cost you right now with the scores really not that low this week.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, you know, I'm playing really good. I love this golf course, I'm swinging it really well, but yeah, just, you know, a couple -- missed some short putts, which you're going to do around here so can't get frustrated, just got to keep going. You know, I'm stroking it nicely, I'm hitting it nicely. You're going to make a couple mistakes around here, but hopefully tomorrow we can go out and, you know, put a good -- put a good round together and put some pressure on these leaders. Hopefully, if I can go out and not make many mistakes, it will be a really good day.

Q. You've got to get off to a good start on the front nine, which you didn't do today, but the back nine, man, 12 through 15 is a gauntlet that's really tough. If you can stay clean through there, you might pick up shots on the leaders?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, absolutely, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, they're all good holes. I mean, if you get out of position just a little bit, you can make a really easy bogey, but if you hit good shots, you can make birdie. So it's difficult but it's fair and you've just got to take what you get.

Q. Somebody asked what I thought about Riviera, I said it's the easiest hard course I've ever played.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, it is. It's one of my favorites we play all year. It might be the best course we play on Tour. It's just so good, it's right in front of you, there's nothing tricky, no rough really, but it's just hard.

Q. How would you assess your round?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, it definitely makes lunch taste a little better today. You know, I hit a pretty good drive, I just -- I hit it really good and pulled it just a touch, just hangs up in the left rough. No matter what hole it is, if you're in the rough out here, it's just -- it's very difficult to get the ball just on the green really.

So tomorrow I need to go out, I need to hit a couple more fairways. Even though I feel like I'm driving it really good, but I feel like quite a few times today I was just like a couple feet off the fairway, which hopefully tomorrow we can be in the fairway.

Q. That makes all the difference out here, just even two inches like that?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah. There really isn't any rough, but you just can't get any spin on the ball, and these greens are firm and fast, so it's very difficult if you're not in the fairway.

Q. You've won here, (inaudible) coming from behind somebody can do here a little bit?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I don't know, when I won I was pretty far ahead, so I like being ahead. You know, when you're behind, you always -- you know, you're chasing. I guess it depends, depends on how far ahead you are. One shot's not a big deal, but three or four is.

Q. Do you feel like you can put a little pressure on the leaders if you go out and make a few early birdies tomorrow?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, definitely. Need to get off to a good start, which I didn't do today even though I had the chances. I hit some really nice shots, just didn't convert on the putts. Yeah, tomorrow, go out and get off to a good start and you never know. Who knows what they finish at, but hopefully I'm within striking distance.

Q. How much of a day like today could be a kickstart to what you want to do the rest of the way here?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, I feel like I'm playing well. I switched balls this week, I actually went to a softer ball, which obviously has been -- I've been doing pretty well with it. It's a little bit different. I don't know, I like it, I feel like I'm controlling it very well.

Q. Have you seen the course change?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I haven't seen the course change really since, I mean, since Thursday. Maybe just a little bit firmer, the greens are maybe a hair faster today, but it's played pretty similar.