

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN (-16)**

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**Q. Leader yesterday and following with another good round.**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** Yeah, obviously it was a great start after yesterday's round. Didn't sleep much, it was pretty late when I finished and we started pretty early, but yeah, we got it going pretty good at the beginning. Yeah, I really like the way I handled myself out there after been playing good the front nine. Didn't hit a great driver on 11, still made birdie there. That different mentality having this week I think is helping a lot.

**Q. With seven birdies today and an eagle, why are you scoring so low? What's working for you?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** I think everything is working pretty well. Obviously I'm making a lot of putts right now. I feel I'm starting my ball online with the putter, so that's obviously -- when you have greens this good when you start your line, I think you've got a good chance of making putts, so I think that's been big this week.

**Q. A lot of tournaments last year, including this one, didn't have fans. Do you feed off the fans or are you kind of in your own tunnel vision?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** Yeah, I like the energy of the fans. Obviously when we got COVID, that break when there was no people on the course, it felt kind of weird. I didn't enjoy it as much as we normally do with big crowds. Yeah, I like the energy of having people here, having people from Chile following me, so that make it nice.

**Q. What's the secret to generating power with a smaller frame?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** What do you mean the smaller frame?

**Q. Like, you know, me and you, we're tiny guys. What's the secret to hitting it far?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** I just got lucky with the genetics of my dad and mom.

**Q. It's very hard to come back from a very low score like you did today. Have you ever done this before, shot scores that low back to back?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** I don't know, but I think the one thing on days that I played that good and then I got to come the day after, sometimes it's probably not as good. But I was able to try to keep it calm, try to stay with my emotions and try to just feel the same. The same way I feel on Thursday, try to make it the same on Friday. I think I made a good job there, which I

was feeling great the whole day.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** I hit a really nice 3-wood and I hit a 6-iron that I hit it a little thin. I didn't want to land it there and it still got there so I was lucky. Good shot.

**Q. How important was that to have a good round to start the way you did?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** Yeah, I think that helps a lot to start that way. Obviously hitting -- I didn't hit my best second shot on No. 1, but I still hit it pretty close. No. 2 I hit a good driver, beautiful second shot and made the putt, so I think the No. 2 was keeping me going.

**Q. Is there a famous spot in L.A. for a restaurant that you've heard of that you want to --**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** No. I like eating with my friends at home, we're enjoying it.

**Q. Where did you make the long one?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** I think the longest one was probably 12. Yeah, that was a nice putt. I hit a good putt and it was for me look all the way in and it just dove at the end.

**Q. Compared to yesterday where probably every birdie was --**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** Yeah, yeah, I think yesterday I hit every shot pretty close and today I hit a really good one, that one on 12 and 14 also.

**Q. Have you ever built a golf club?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** Built a golf club?

**Q. I'm not talking about a course, I'm talking about an actual --**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** No, I'm actually really bad at that. You see people that like to play with their clubs, changing stuff, lies and stuff. I think I have the same clubs since I was probably 16, 17. I don't mess with them. Probably my putter and driver are the main thing I've been changing, but other than that, is pretty much the same.

**Q. Joaquin, does it feel like a long time since you've won a tournament?**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** Yeah, it feels forever actually. I think it was two or three years ago. It feels a long time. Obviously you play this game to try to win every week and yeah, but you know how hard it is to win here and how competitive they are, how many good players there are here. You have to be patient and just wait for my week.

**Q. You've separated yourself from the field a little bit. Do you look at it (inaudible). Tomorrow you go out tomorrow. How concerned will you be --**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** There's still a lot of golf to go. There's 36 more holes to go, so a lot of things can happen there. Yeah, just try to not think about it, who's going to be up there with me or who's going to be coming from behind, just try to worry about my game, try to worry about my shots and I think it should be all right.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JOAQUIN NIEMANN:** I like both.