

**JEFF SLUMAN (-6)**

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**Q. Jeff, can you just you start with your thoughts on the round today?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** Well, you know, Tucson's been good to me, Tucson's been bad to me at times, or I've been bad to myself when I'm here. I've had some success here and kind of makes it feel like if I play well, at least I know how to play the golf course. Got off to a good start, hit it in there about a foot and a half or two foot on No. 1. Generally speaking, drove the ball well and it in the right spots. The wind picked up a little bit as the day progressed and I just actually executed the game plan like you're supposed to, like the guys that are winning tournaments do on a week-to-week basis.

**Q. Did you surprise yourself at all with this performance given how you played last week?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** You know, I played great in Hualalai the first tournament of the year. I mean, I played so good, putted really bad. Took some time off, was shoveling snow up in Chicago. Not certainly an excuse, but got down to Florida to get ready and I gave myself a week and it was so windy. I just really never got anything situated last week, where I felt like the ball was controlling me, not me controlling the ball. Just I didn't play any good obviously. Can't say played pretty good, but I did finish on Sunday birdie-birdie-birdie, which kind of got me in a better frame of mind. I kind of felt like I straightened my swing out a little bit there, then came right here and got some good practice in Tuesday and all that. You know, here we go. Golf at this age, except for Bernhard, is a little bit of a mystery at times.

**Q. How would you compare the conditions today to the last two days?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** Oh, jeez, Wednesday afternoon I played 10 holes and when we got over on 10, that's when the wind came in and it dropped about 20 degrees, went from 60 to 40 and rain and lashing wind. My guys did the right thing and said, "We're done," so we all came in. But that was some kind of weather change. I mean, we knew it was probably going to happen. The morning wasn't so bad I don't think, the guys played okay.

**Q. It was windy.**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** It was windy, yeah, but it wasn't bad. That was insane. You could not prepare for it. As I understand, there was a few groups that actually played the entire 18 holes. Maybe they ought to get a fee room for the week, the pros. That's crazy.

**Q. How do you prepare for the season when you're based out of Chicago?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** Well, we do have a place in Florida, but coming home from Hawaii, my wife was up there and we got -- I landed in a snowstorm coming from Hawaii and you kind of scratch your head and say it's 84 degrees here, now it's 6 degrees and it's 12 inches of snow. I got the snowblower going and I did all that stuff. But you're not getting any obviously quality golf time in.

We kind of looked at each other after about a week, because we were originally going to be home for two weeks, and both of us at the same time, when it was like minus 4 or 5 said, you know, we don't have to be here, what are we doing? So we hopped on a plane and went back down a little earlier than expected.

But to your point, you really don't get much work in, you're just trying not to hurt yourself shoveling or whatever. It's where we live and I don't enjoy the winters as much as I used to as a kid, but they're not so bad.

**Q. What's your approach heading into tomorrow?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** A good game plan today, just execute the shots. And I made some subtle changes from Sunday of last week and kind of got my body and everything aimed properly for me. Just see if I can continue to do that. If I do, I should hit some pretty solid golf shots.

**Q. Are you really 64 now?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** I really am.

**Q. Does what Bernhard's doing give you any solace that maybe --**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** Not really, no.

**Q. No?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** I mean, Bernhard's a -- I mean, he's a freak. It's unbelievable what he's doing and it's a shame that he's not getting recognized more in the national and world golf press for what he's doing. If you try and compare at our age ourselves to him, I mean, you're going to end up on the short end of the stick all the time.

But your question, yeah, I think it shows, yeah, I can still play the game a little bit, but his consistency, that's the phenomenal part. He does it week in and week out. If I'm doing it every other week or every other month or whatever, I mean, it's not easy to do even when you're 50 out here let alone at his age. Like I said, I feel not bad for him, certainly can't say that, but what he's doing is something I don't think we'll ever see again at that age, how he can compete and still win. He doesn't hit it near as far as he used to and he just, he doesn't make mistakes. He hits it in the middle and he makes a ton of putts. It's phenomenal to watch.

**Q. Being from Wisconsin, does the last -- the second of your two Milwaukee wins 20 years ago seem like yesterday or a gazillion years ago?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** You know, that's a great question. There's times that it seems like it was just a few months ago and there's times that you say, God, how did I ever do that, it seems so long ago. I think that is how you're playing at the time. If you're playing really well, you go, I remember that feeling and that vibe and I'm into it. Then if you're playing kind of poorly, you're scoring poorly, you say, how did I ever do that, that seems like ancient times.

**Q. Does your win here in '97 feel like ancient times?**

**JEFF SLUMAN:** No, not -- that was an interesting week. I started poorly. I didn't know if I was even going to make the cut, I shot 75 right out of the box. I think it was the highest winning score that year first round for anybody.

I don't really like this course, you know, I was in a bad rut at the time. My wife just said basically if you're going to kind of be a baby like that, just come home. I was like, I'm not going to do that, that's not my style.

But I went into Friday, Saturday and Sunday of that week just saying my only goal is to get every putt to the hole because I was -- you know, when you're not making putts, you kind of get a little angry at times. That was really my goal for the whole week and fortunately I hit it really well the last three days and got pretty much every ball in the hole. Then you fall back into your old habits of maybe not being as aggressive on the greens later in your next week, next year or whatever, but it was a good lesson for me to learn that week that you're never out of it, kind of get a plan, at least stick to it and see what happens from. There, so that's what I'm going to try and do on the weekend.