

JONATHAN BYRD (-7)

Q. That was a great start. Just assess the round today.

JONATHAN BYRD: I mean, I got off to a hot start. You know, you stand on that first tee and you're just trying to not hit it right. Try to hit the fairway on the first hole and just kind of plod along. That was kind of my mindset today, just plod along around the course and stay as committed as possible.

But I really got off to a great start. Hit a good wedge on 1, made birdie. Good par on 2. Three, made a 15-footer. Four, missed a very makeable one. Had a good look on 5. Six, par 5, had an easy birdie, and 7's a drivable hole and I drove it to 20 feet and hit the worst lag putt you could ever hit down there three feet and made birdie. Then chipped in on 9. So it was just kind of, it was a hot start but I hit a lot of good shots and you just kind of, when you catch a run, you've just got to press down the pedal and see what you can get out of it.

Q. Can you elaborate for us a bit? It's a new golf course and you mentioned just before that first tee shot on that first hole is probably the hardest on the golf course. Can you just explain that a little bit more for us?

JONATHAN BYRD: Well, I mean, for a guy who's kind of -- I've struggled with my tee ball a little bit over the years at times and when you've got so many tee shots where you can just let it go and swing as hard as you want, you start off on the first hole and it kind of makes you -- puts a little pressure on you like you don't want to mess up the first tee. So it was nice to hit the first fairway. But then the rest of the golf course, it kind of gives you plenty of room off the tee and the rough's not bad, so it's just kind of swing away.

Q. A season like this when you kind of have different status for different tournaments, how do you approach kind of staying ready and mapping out your schedule in terms of where you might try to Monday or you might want to take a week off?

JONATHAN BYRD: Well, I mean, this fall I was really pleased, like I knew I was going to get in like three events. I went to Q-School, played second stage and finals and that really helped me. I was trying to get some Web status because I didn't have any. With a guy in my category, I'm trying to do whatever I can to create enough tournaments to create momentum throughout the year. If you're playing the past champion category, you might go five weeks without playing a tournament and it's just hard to keep momentum. I did that this fall and that helped me in some of those fall events. Fortunately, I played my way into Bay Hill, I played my way into Phoenix and I've been able to carve out a pretty good schedule this year. I'm on the verge of getting in the next two weeks, which would be four in a row, so I'm just kind of

tickled to just have more tournaments to play in. I started the year thinking I might get in 15, looks like I might get in more like 20. I'm just happy to have starts. And my game's good, so trying to stay aggressive and see what I can make of it.

Q. Are you having like fun out there? How would you describe the vibe at this point in your career, playing and competing and going through the process compared to when you were in your 20s and starting out?

JONATHAN BYRD: Yeah, it's different. When you're younger, I think you're trying to prove something, but I'm still trying to prove something. I'm still trying to prove I'm 44 and I can compete with these guys. It's getting harder. I played with Taylor Moore and Alex Smalley today, two new studs on the PGA Tour, and they hit it far and they hit a lot of quality shots much everybody's better. But I still have something to prove, I still feel like I can compete. Every week is an opportunity for me to have fun with it and see what I can do.

Q. When you get through second stage, does the whole experience give you a nice kind of vibe that you've been able to take into the rest of the season?

JONATHAN BYRD: For me at my stage of the career, it's not exactly what you want to be doing. Going back to second stage, but it was a -- I looked at it, I talked to my people and my wife, my agent and we just felt like going into Bermuda having a four-round tournament to play your way into another tournament, you know, you can't lose.

So I went to that and finished second and it just, it's just any tournament you play well, if I go out and bet my 15-year-old son, it gives me confidence. If I go beat Grayson Sigg or take money off of him or Keith Mitchell at home, that gives them confidence just when they beat me. Winning feeds itself and gives you confidence, so I'll take anything at this point.

Q. How much inspiration does it give you (inaudible) situation where you can probably --

JONATHAN BYRD: The problem is he's getting better and better and he keeps hitting it further and further and I keep hitting it the same distance. It's just another challenge. I love watching my kids do anything, especially when they're doing it well. My son's a great golfer and I love watching him play. It brings me great joy, but it's also fun for me to go out there and compete with him.

Q. How far does Jackson drive it compared to you?

JONATHAN BYRD: He hits it about 20 by me. He hits it as far as the two guys I played with today. It's humbling.

Q. How long ago did he start to outdrive you?

JONATHAN BYRD: Last year. He's 14. Oh, well. Still got to get it in the hole.