

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 9, 2023



JUSTIN LEONARD (-10)

Q. That is one heck of a round of golf. Did you see it coming?

JUSTIN LEONARD: Well, thank you, John. I played in the afternoon in the Wednesday pro-am and the greens looked like about this cart path right here and I thought, there's no way you can shoot -- I mean, a good score is maybe 2, 3 under par. I played yesterday morning in the pro-am and it was a little softer and I was like, OK, maybe.

I didn't see 62, I didn't wake up thinking I was going to shoot 62. Honestly, and I lost track of where I was, which is the goal each and every day. Trying just to not -- I think at times I focus too much on score or a leaderboard or where I am or what I need to do. I've just been really working on just kind of really staying present and just whatever the shot required.

Today, you know, I guess you could say that I missed the second shot at 18, but other than that, one drive at 11, I didn't really miss many shots today. Hit a lot of them exactly the way I wanted to, and to get on these greens and feel good and know the ball's starting where I want to, you can make a few putts.

Q. You've been great at every level from junior golf to college golf and obviously your career on the PGA TOUR. It started slowly out here. Has that been frustrating for you?

JUSTIN LEONARD: It's been a little frustrating at times. I keep reminding myself that I took a little bit of a hiatus. Wearing a headset for six years, I learned a few things but also forgot a few things with my own game. So I'm starting to put those pieces back together.

My game feels good. It's little things here and there that I'm relearning. And I think the way I've played my schedule where I'm not really playing many back-to-back weeks where I can kind of put everything into a week and then go home and kind of reassess and think about things and all that, I think that has served me well and it's something that I'm going to continue to do throughout the season.

But yeah, it's nice, I feel like I've been building towards some really good golf. Hopefully today's the start of it.

Q. We remember that guy we saw today and those guys remember that guy we saw today. Keep going.

JUSTIN LEONARD: Thanks, John.