

ROUND 2 QUOTES
January 25, 2024



STEPHAN JAEGER (-12)

Q. Stephan, solid round, yourself right now as the solo leader heading into the weekend, but Friday. Just kind of take us through what's worked well for you the last two days.

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I've been driving a fair bit of fairways. When I do miss it, I feel like I've done a good job with missing in the right spots, being able to kind of chase something up and being able to maybe have an easier up-and-down than you would out of the rough or something.

I've been putting it well, my speed's been great. Obviously made a couple of nice putts, longer putts that kind of kept the round going. Made a great up-and-down today on my 11th, No. 2. Just things like that kind of keep you in the round, keep you in the tournament. Like I said, I've been driving it really nicely, so that's been working for me, for sure.

Q. You pretty comfortably kept your card last year, really consistent. I'm sure you were happy with that. Now, as you kind of look to give yourself more of these opportunities, what is that jump like to make it from consistent but always trying to find yourself at the top?

STEPHAN JAEGER: It's hard because those guys -- everybody's good out here. There's a reason some of those guys have been out here for a long time.

You just try to find every weakness in your game somehow, if it's mental or if it's putting, short game, whatever it is, you try to find any weakness that you have that you try to work upon and get better. You've also got to continue to work on each strength, otherwise you're going to lose those.

It's hard. It's definitely more hours even off the course, a lot more work than I used to do. I kind of get the rewards for it sometimes, so it's nice to see some of the hard work to pay off and to be able to kind of stand here and feel really comfortable for this weekend.

Q. Were there specific targets that you went into the offseason, things you wanted to address?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I think mentally I always felt like when I was playing good, I didn't really get enough out of my rounds. I felt like I wasn't really -- I was putting good, driving good, everything and it just -- I never really got the high finishes I wanted out of it.

So that, kind of looking at that was a big one. Obviously my putting last year, the stats were



terrible. That always used to be my strength, so I put a lot of effort in that. Not necessarily stroke, it's a lot of speed stuff for me. Feeling comfortable with the speed and being able to kind of feel good over a 15-footer knowing I'm hitting the right speed. Those are two probably the main ones that stick out.

Wedges for me are big, too. With kind of the added distance I put in my game, there's going to be a lot more wedges, a lot more shots between 130 and 150 that I need to capitalize on. Those are kind of some of the things that I address.

Q. When did that distance come for you?

STEPHAN JAEGER: That was probably a couple years ago. I just told Steve, I was one of the shortest and most crooked guys out here and I just kind of went, you know, like if I'm going to hit it in the rough, I might as well hit it far in the rough.

So I ended up gaining a bunch of speed and hitting it straighter for some reason. That was a great kind of second tidbit to that. And ended up hitting more fairways and being straighter and being longer has really helped and kind of catapulted my game to the next level and that's kind of where the consistencies come from to be able to kind of play every week end but also kind of compete in a place like this.

Q. You gave yourself a chance at the end of the year to qualify for all the signature events, didn't quite make it. Now, as you head into this next first kind of wave and even looking more down the line, how much is that something you're paying attention to, where you are in those smaller standings, the 5 and the 10?

STEPHAN JAEGER: You kind of mentioned it, the 5 and the 10, it's very confusing. I'm just trying to play good golf, trying to win tournaments, trying to get myself there on the weekends. It's been a while.

I've won a few times on the Korn Ferry, but to be able to kind of be out here on the weekend with the cameras on and play in front of the guys, last couple groups is awesome. To be able to do that, that's really the main goal. The rest, it's kind of cliché, I'm sorry, but the rest kind of takes care of itself.

Yeah, I was a little bummed last year not getting in the top-50, but to be able to see my progress and kind of on and off the PGA TOUR, 86 to 56 to this year, it's been awesome to see for me, and being able to measure that towards where I've come from is big for me.

Q. Stephan, can you take us through the eagle on 9?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I hit a good drive. It was a little into the wind today, so we had 260, 270 pin. I kind of tugged it a little bit. I wanted it kind of go middle of the green and I went right at it, ended up landing just short of the pin and scooting kind of back fringe. Had a little downhill right-to-lefter about 35 feet and it ended up curling in. It was awesome to see



that. Finishing like that, yeah, it was exciting.

Q. What does that do for your momentum having a big moment to finish like that going into the last two rounds of a PGA TOUR event?

STEPHAN JAEGER: I mean, not really anything because it's a new round tomorrow, we're playing a different golf course. But it's always nice to make eagles and birdies, nobody can take those away from you. I'm pumped to play the South Course two more days, I love this place. This is probably one of my favorite tournaments every year. Yeah, to be able to kind of stay on top and try to make birdies.

Q. Is it gratifying to have a moment like that with the fans after you've had ups and downs with your career? You've had to grind on the Korn Ferry Tour, you've won on that tour, but to have that moment, is that gratifying at all?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, absolutely. Like I said, the fruits of your labor kind of show up times and they show up at the right time as well. To be able to be in this position is awesome. It's going to be nerve wracking, but it's going to be awesome, so I can't wait for this weekend.

