

JOE DURANT (-13)

Q. Joe, just take me through today, the emotions, your first win since 2021. How did it feel to get that one under your belt?

JOE DURANT: It felt good. I'll be 60 in a month or so and you just wonder how many more you have in the tank. I was just trying really hard to play well today. When you put yourself in position, you want to play well.

But Stewart's such a great player, and Retief and all the guys that are at the top of the board, so you know you're going to have to play really well. I was fortunate I played a real nice steady round of golf, didn't make too many mistakes. Just very thankful to get the win.

Q. You talked about playing for your nephew, he was like a little brother to you. The emotions, just feeling that coming up 18, could you feel him with you?

JOE DURANT: I did, yeah. People say that all the time, but I really did. All during the round I was kind of reflecting on just thinking about things we used to laugh about and do together and things. Yeah, his spirit was certainly with me today and I wanted to make him proud and I hope I did today.

Q. Well, speaking of someone who was with you, Amanda, how did it feel to have her walking knowing she's currently in her fight, just seeing all the strength, and even with all the survivors and caregivers out here, what this weekend meant?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, just an amazing week in that regard. To see all of them here with us and knowing the battles that they've been going through, the survivors and how good they look and how vibrant they are and what great attitudes they have after all they've been through. It certainly puts golf in perspective and makes you realize that we want to play well, it's important to us, but it's not as important as things like that. You've got to have your health. When you go through tribulations like that, it really makes you appreciate when you are healthy. I'm just so happy for these people that were here with us this week, and Amanda was certainly a big inspiration to me as well today.

Q. Stewart talked about your friendship. Was it tough seeing him the way he kind of struggled down the stretch like that?

JOE DURANT: It was. You don't want to see anybody do that coming down the stretch. You hope you both play great and one guy just happens to make a putt on the last hole to win it.

Stewart and I used to room together at the Bob Hope in the desert and spend time together. We've been friends for a long time, done each other's charity events for a number of years. He's one of my really close friends.

He's going to win. He's such a great player, he'll win a bunch when he gets rolling. He's trying to pick and choose between the regular Tour and this tour and that's very difficult to do. There's a reason why he's won so many tournaments, he'll win a bunch out here.

Q. You mentioned Tucson National. What's different out here? Obviously it's a desert course. Does this fit your eye better?

JOE DURANT: I don't know. It's ironic because Tucson National was kind of like a course I grew up on. Maybe I was too amped up when I got there thinking I was going to play really well there and I always played terrible, I never played well at all.

Coming here was maybe like a fresh start. I knew you had to drive it well here and I do tend to drive the ball pretty straight, so I was kind of licking my chops in that regard. I was kind of excited to move to a new venue.

Q. After the high of the eagle on 11 and seeing Stewart's troubles out there, how did you stabilize just for those final few holes knowing that you could look at the scorecard and you have the lead?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, the biggest thing that my old teacher who passed away 20-some years ago worked on with me was compartmentalization. Going through my routine, going through the process and just sticking to that, trying not to pay too much attention to what's going on around. I think that's probably one of the biggest weapons I have is I try to play my own game and just try to hit fairways, hit greens, just keep giving myself opportunities. Coming down the stretch that's really all I did, I just kept hitting greens, and fortunately my lag putting was very good today and I had a lot of tap-ins. I was very happy for that because I was shaky on the short ones yesterday, for sure.

Q. One of the unique things about this setup is the fans are a little bit closer to you. With this being such a tight course, the galleries are a little bit on top of you so you feel it a little bit more. How was that experience for you this week with these fans?

JOE DURANT: I think it was great. We had a lot of fans out here this week and it was a lot of fun. The weather after the pro-am on Thursday turned out fantastic and it's nice to be here in Tucson in early March.