

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
March 29, 2024



STEPHAN JAEGER (-5)

Q. Stephan, in with 4 under 66 in the second round, 5 under, what was special about that round today?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, it's obviously really gusty today and I felt like they put the pins in some hard spots today, which is surprising with the forecast. We knew it was going to be windy today and a couple fairways we barely got to the fairway. It was one of those rounds where you just kind of keep grinding, keep grinding. My putter saved me a few times today, which was nice. Yeah, great round, obviously you have some room off the tee. Haven't really been driving it that well the last couple days so I'm kind of looking forward to leaning on that a little bit on the weekend and kind of getting back to how I know how to drive it.

Q. Was there a stand-out moment, a highlight for you in that round today?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I had a really nice drive on No. 3, we had like downwind and I went after one and I hit 7-iron on a par-5, which was awesome. It was kind of a simple birdie, kind of kept the round going. I birdied 2 and 3 after bogeying 1, which kind of felt like a par. I mean, I think Carson hit driver, 3-wood and I hit driver, 3-wood on a par-4, which doesn't really happen that often. Yeah, it's one of those golf courses, like it doesn't have a lot of defense except for the length and some of the pin placements so I'm super happy with my round.

Q. Your season so far, how would you sum it up? A couple top 3s, a couple missed cuts. How would you sum it up?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, obviously I started off really well on the west coast, which is not really like me, I've played kind of poorly in the past on the west coast. I'm happy with it. I had a couple chances to win, especially in San Diego. Mexico, not so much. I keep trying, keep giving yourself opportunities. That was kind of my goal at the beginning of the year, keep giving yourself opportunities to do something on the weekend and one of those hopefully will work at some point this year. I'm just going to keep doing that, keep playing well, keep practicing hard and see where it goes.

Q. Outside of Tony's 8-under round, 66 is the best score out there today. Did it feel maybe a little bit better than 66 considering the conditions?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I mean, it's hard to say, right? You see Tony posting 62 obviously in the morning so I'm sure the wind wasn't blowing quite as much, but to have a low round by four doesn't really happen that often on the PGA TOUR. Hats off to him, that was obviously incredible.



It's a score, right? Like I'm just trying to, you know, make the best score on each hole and add 'em up at the end. I'm super happy with 4 under. Obviously if somebody would have told me before the round I would shoot 66, I would have taken it and sit and have a couple beers.

Like I said, I'm super happy. It was a super grind, didn't have my best stuff off the tee on second shots. I'm excited to kind of get another shot at it next couple days.

Q. Does it maybe loosen you up a little bit? I know a lot of guys this week have talked about the rough not being as penal. Since you're not hitting it as good, does it kind of loosen you up a little bit knowing that you still have opportunities to get up and in and maybe save par on a hole?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I think this golf course, it does give you a lot of room off the tee on some spots and you can hit some bad drives and still have a perfectly fine lie or whatever. There are some holes that you have to step up and hit a good tee shot to be able to hit on the green, especially with the wind being up this week. And second shots, I mean, you hit it in the wrong spot here you're making five or bogey at least. That's a big one, you've got to miss in the right spots. Off the tee is obviously a little lenient but there's still trees, you could still kind of get stymied behind a tree. I wouldn't rely on hitting it all over the place on the weekend, I think a little straighter would probably serve us well.

Q. I've asked you this in various ways at times, but all the success you've had on the Korn Ferry Tour helps you in contention on the weekend on the PGA TOUR, whether it's talking to the media and being in the later groups and just knowing what it entails to be in those positions?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Obviously I had my fair success out there. You know, that plus some of the times that I got lucky enough to be in contention here, any experience, that's experience so you can't really -- can't get that anywhere else but being there. It's exciting. I obviously really like where my game's at, I like what I'm doing, I like my team, I like everybody around. To be able to kind of give myself more opportunities this year was a huge goal of mine. Like I want to be there Sundays a lot of times and I want to compete. I know sometimes it doesn't work out your way and sometimes it does. That's what I'm here for.

Q. Do you feel like you're due to win on the PGA TOUR or is that something like it's so hard to win that that's not really a thing?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Due is a hard word, right? I think I'm doing the right things to do it. I think all the work I've done on my short game, that's kind of been letting me down the last couple months. To be able to go there and it will come together at some point. If it's this week, if it's some other week, I know it's in there. I try not to press it. Obviously, you know, I'm 34 now, I'm not a young buck anymore and I'm trying to be as patient as possible, but yeah, I'm definitely looking forward to that first one.



Q. And what's your take on the dominance I guess of Scottie Scheffler and what he's been able to do and the ball-striking run he's been on, most rounds under par on Tour, just all the stuff he's doing?

STEPHAN JAEGER: I mean, that guy, he's on another level right now, right? If he starts putting well, we're going to have our issues.

You know, I think overall not a lot of people can beat him over the course of a year. I think he probably would have won a couple FedExCup cups right now if they didn't change the format. He's the best player in the world and he's playing like it.

Honestly, it's fun to watch, right? It's unorthodox in a sense and it's -- ball-striking-wise it's really, really, really impressive what he's doing week in, week out. To be that on and your bad stuff be that good is pretty impressive. Couldn't be -- couldn't happen to a nicer guy, he's awesome, so I'm happy for him obviously and I'm going to try to beat his brains out this weekend.

Q. We're just four months away from the Olympics. Is that on your mind at all?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, obviously this year schedule-wise it's great, I'm super excited about the opportunity to maybe play for Germany there. It's definitely on my calendar, it's definitely -- we've done some of the prep work for it. There's a million things you've got to do administratively wise. It would be something that I could tell everybody about for the rest of my life, right? To be able to have an opportunity to maybe play, like I said, I'm planning on competing, planning on going this year. Obviously I didn't -- I skipped Tokyo a couple years ago because I was in a hard spot in my career, I wanted to kind of get a foot out here and being able to do that this year with not even missing a week is amazing. I don't know who put that together, but it's awesome. It would be a great honor obviously. And I heard that golf course is pretty pure and hard, so I'm excited.

Q. When you were growing up, how much attention did you pay to the Olympics and what was kind of the favorite things for you to --

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, golf, not much, right? I grew up watching Olympics. I can't remember when it stopped, like '85 or something, then it just restarted in Rio. But Olympics was awesome. I think the biggest or the best sports to watch is like the track and field, that's for me -- swimming's also a really good one, right? I was over here when Phelps was going on his run.

Like for Germans we would watch some of -- the Winter Olympics is more our deal, the bobsled and all that kind of stuff. We grew up watching that, the triathlon where you shoot the -- yeah, biathlon. It's awesome, right? That was more kind of what we watched for the Olympics. Golf was never really in the realm of things to be able to do. So when they changed it, obviously it was a little bit more of like hey, you know what, this would be cool, I



could be an Olympic athlete, which calling a golfer an athlete, some of us maybe, but you look and compare it some of the athletes there, it's impressive.

Q. Who's the first German Summer Olympic athlete that comes to mind?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Summer Olympics is tough, I can't remember. It's more Winter Olympics. We had the bobsled guy, he's like kind of close to where I'm from and he would sharpen his own thing. I can't remember his name now, you put me on the spot, Jesus. I think his name is Georg Hackl, that was his name. He was the guy in the Winter Olympics, he was kind of a genius brain of getting the bobsled, so that's -- the Winter Olympics is probably what I would remember most.

