

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: JEFF MAGGERT
September 3, 2016



CHRIS RICHARDS: We are joined by leader Jeff Maggert. Thank you for joining us today. Good playing today, second straight round of 63 and for the second day in a row you started with birdies on your first three holes. What did that do to set the tone for your second round today?

JEFF MAGGERT: Obviously a good, aggressive start again. I hit the ball close on the first hole, kind of a tap-in birdie and then made a couple nice putts on 2 and 3.

So again, yeah, obviously getting off to a good start helps. I was almost kind of glad I didn't birdie the fourth hole again today because that would have been another four birdie. So okay, let's kind of cool it down here, try to pace myself and just play aggressive and I did. I made another birdie on the front and kind of just played steady all day.

The only issue was my drive kind of clipped a tree there on 13 and bounced over in a bad spot, an awkward chip-out then short of the green, and then chipped on and made a nice 18-footer to save a bogey. Really, that was kind of my day. I was just riding that putter all day, making a lot of those 10-, 15-, 12-footers. When you're doing that it just takes a lot of pressure off your game.

The golf course played a little longer today, it was a little wetter but the greens were certainly very receptive and soft. So if you're driving it in the fairway, I felt like I had a lot of opportunities to make birdies.

CHRIS RICHARDS: We'll open it up.

Q. Could you explain (no microphone.)

JEFF MAGGERT: Yeah, I know. I would have taken a birdie there, but you know, sometimes you play a little mental trick on you sometimes. But anyway, I wanted -- I felt like it was a day where I could shoot 8, 9, maybe 10 under. I just felt like the way the greens were, it didn't look like it was going to be real windy today so I was focused on trying to drive the ball really well. And then I felt like I could hit a lot of shots close to the hole and that's kind of the way I played all day.

I think I only missed two fairways. I missed the 11th fairway, but being a par 5 I was able to just knock it down there about a hundred yards from the green and wedged it in there about two feet and tapped in for birdie. The missed fairway there didn't hurt me at all. Obviously 13 I was in a little bit of a bind but came back with a nice putt.

Then birdied the next two holes after that. I was trying to get another couple birdies coming

in. I birdied 15. I was like, you know, let's be aggressive. And 18's a birdie hole, get a couple more up there.

It's always the more cushion you've got, the better. I mean, I think this is a golf course where a guy can come out that's 8, 9, 10 under and shoot a 7, 8, 9 under tomorrow. So I have to play well tomorrow. A three-shot lead or whatever may seem like significant at this point, but I need to play well on the front nine tomorrow and make some birdies.

Q. (Inaudible) with a three-stroke lead, you're going to be tough to beat. That's a different position than last year. Do you feel comfortable with that?

JEFF MAGGERT: If a guy's playing well, and obviously I'm playing well, but you also have the mindset, I was a couple three shots behind I think last year starting the last day. You know, I went to the last round thinking I'm going to just play as aggressive as I can and make 10 birdies. And sometimes you've got to watch out for guys like that. There's this guy from Germany that's lurking around the lead again, too. The way he's been playing all year, you know. I'm not really going to watch the scoreboard, I'm going to pay attention to what I'm doing, but I know in my heart I've got to go out and make some birdies tomorrow and shoot another low score.

Q. (Inaudible) He says he's prepared to come strong tomorrow, too.

JEFF MAGGERT: Oh, sure, he shot a good round today and I think really everyone in the top 10, top 15 on the leaderboard's got the same thoughts going on in their head; you know, this is a golf course I can shoot 7, 8 or 9 under on.

Q. It's going to be cold tomorrow, and it's always hard to follow a good round -- how hard is it even changing weather and the fact that you've put two great rounds together to have that mindset or what is the mindset of what you have to do tomorrow?

JEFF MAGGERT: Well, probably a tougher day weather-wise might be to my advantage. My ball striking's really well right now. Ball striking's important on the bad weather days. I'm not really going to think about the weather. I know it's supposed to be a little bit colder, but if we get a little sunshine and if it's 50 with some sunshine, it's not going to feel that bad out here.

The only thing that really alters this golf course is if we get like a 10, 15-mile an hour wind with some gusts in it. Then getting the ball close to the pin is going to be a lot more difficult. But I'll just take what I get tomorrow and just play aggressive and try to make birdies.

Q. In terms of a mindset after a couple great rounds like that, I mean, do you feed off that? It is very difficult (inaudible)?

JEFF MAGGERT: You know, being a par 70, you get a little bit -- you see the score, 63s

and 64s, so it seems like it's like God, they're just tearing this place up. But being a par 70, I think I shot 16, 17 under last year and I was thinking coming in it's probably going to be the same, 16, 17, 18 under and that's a lot of birdies, playing good scores every day so that's kind of the way I've been thinking all week.

Q. (No microphone.) What would that do tomorrow in terms of just not giving the guys chances?

JEFF MAGGERT: Well, I would love another three-hole birdie run there in the beginning. But again, like I alluded to earlier, I don't want for me to get into the oh, that's going to happen every time I play this golf course. I need to play the first hole, the first tee shot, the second shot and just get through those holes and play well. If I make three birdies again, great. If I make three pars, great. I would have to keep that one shot kind of mentality really in check tomorrow because that's going to be important and not think too far out and not look at the leaderboard too much.

Q. (No microphone.)

JEFF MAGGERT: No.

Q. But know it does seem like (no microphone.)

JEFF MAGGERT: It suits my eye very well, the golf course, but also I was -- I came in here a little bit kind of angry and a little bit more hungry because of the way I've played this year. I've really felt like I haven't really lived up to the way I should have been playing. I had a great start in Seattle last week and just kind of let it get away from me, and when I got here, I said, you know what, you need to buckle down and just really play a good, solid tournament here and be aggressive and get back to what you're supposed to be doing. So I think that's helping me more than just being defending champion. I came in here probably a lot hungrier to play well than I have the last month or so.

Q. Is it common for you to have your family with you?

JEFF MAGGERT: In the summertime, yes, they try to get out. We started school early in Texas but being a holiday weekend, that was kind of the plan. My wife and daughter actually drove up to Banff today to do some sightseeing so that was kind of on the agenda. So it was good, they had obviously maybe some good weather up there, might have been a little chilly. So we'll be out in full force and maybe we can get four cowboy hats out of the Shaw people if things work out well.

Q. Do you have your boy along?

JEFF MAGGERT: Yeah, he's watched every shot, he's a trooper. He said, There's no way I'm going sightseeing, I'm coming out to watch golf. It's good.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Before we let you go, can you walk us through your birdies, the clubs you were hitting and how long the putts were?

JEFF MAGGERT: Okay. The first three holes, hit it tight on the first hole, three feet. Second hole, about an eight-footer, maybe a little less just straight down the hill. Fourth hole was about a 15-footer. Made a nice about an 18-, 20-footer on 6.

Hit it tight on 11 about inside three feet. Made a nice 15-footer on 12. Another 15-, 18-footer on 14. Then hit it pretty tight on 15 there, probably five feet.

CHRIS RICHARDS: All right. Thank you very much.

JEFF MAGGERT: You got it.