

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
September 1, 2018



JOE DURANT (-11)

Q. Joe, great round today. Talk about that scorecard is absolutely amazing. At the turn there, three birdies back to back. Can you just talk about what your mindset was going there?

JOE DURANT: You know, in all honesty, I'm hitting it a little scratchy. I'm not hitting it as solidly as I'd like to, but I'm putting beautifully. This is probably one of the best putting weeks I've had in a long, long time, so it's really keeping me in the game. And I'm just trying to put it -- somehow get it in the fairway and put it on the green and just let the putter take over. So tomorrow for my nerves it would be nicer if I could hit it just a little better, but I'm excited to be in the position I'm in and we'll have a one-day shootout tomorrow.

Q. So you've won one time this year on the Champions Tour. What was your mindset going into that Sunday and how will that play into this?

JOE DURANT: That might have been a little different then just because a Florida course for me, I'm much more familiar with the grass and everything there and I was hitting the ball beautifully that week. Putting was a little suspect at times, but got it done on Sunday. It would be a good challenge tomorrow.

Q. Big roar from that crowd there when you got that eagle. It was just on the fringe?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, on the fringe. I had about a 15-footer or so, and actually when I hit it I thought I left it short, but it rolled out nicely. That was a really nice way to finish today.

Q. That feeling that you talk about, knowing that your putter's really hot, what's it like lining up putts just when you're in a groove like that?

JOE DURANT: Well, I mean, you're seeing the line very well, visualizing the ball rolling in the hole and that's a huge confidence boost. Typically, it's the other way around for me; usually I feel really good tee to green and then the putting is somewhat suspect. Well, this whole year I've actually putted really well. Been very pleased with my putting and hopefully one more day tomorrow.

Q. Obviously this course plays well to your game. Speaking just specifically to today, what was it about this course that you kind of love the most that just favors you?

JOE DURANT: It has great definition off the tee. Every hole shows you exactly where you need to go, so if you can hit the proper shot, you're going to have a lot of birdie

opportunities, yet if you get in the trees, and some of these trees the branches are so low you've got to chip out sometimes. So definitely the tee shot is important, it sets the whole golf course up. The greens are also -- if you give yourself opportunities, you're going to make some birdies. There's been low rounds every day obviously and there will be some low rounds tomorrow, too.

Q. A lot of non-Canadians making comments about the fluctuation of weather and what the attire is. Just your thoughts on how the weather played a role in your game today and just different layers to play in?

JOE DURANT: Well, I got very close to pulling this off all day and about the time I was going to take it off, one cloud would come and kind of cool it off a bit, so I just kept it on all day. I felt like it was working pretty well, so I stayed with it. You know, we have to be prepared for every weather contingency. We travel with a lot of gear so we're always fairly ready, but sometimes it catches us by surprise.

Q. 63's your best round, you've been here five years, you had a 64 the first time you played it. Are you just getting used to this course coming back every year?

JOE DURANT: Well, we all love coming here. This is one of our best events on the Tour. The hospitality is second to none, we have a great time here, and the course just sets up good to my eye. I've had a couple good chances here in the past, so hopefully I can play a little better on Sunday and see what happens.

Q. What's it like being the guy on Sunday morning? You're going to tee off with a lead or certainly go to sleep tonight with a lead. What's that position like?

JOE DURANT: You know, as good as the guys are out here, you don't take too much stock in it. I mean, it's always nice to have an extra shot to play with, but you've got to go out and shoot a really good round to have a chance tomorrow. I'm sure I'll sleep pretty well. I'm not going to worry about it too much. I've been in both positions, so you just go out and do the best you can.

Q. I think you were co-leading the year -- I think it was the year Fred chipped in for eagle and ended up winning in a playoff?

JOE DURANT: Yeah.

Q. I know you had a tough Sunday. Do you take anything away from that experience?

JOE DURANT: Oh, sure. I mean, you learn every time. If you hole one out and win or if you don't succeed on Sunday, you're always learning. Just figure out a better way to handle it the next time you get an opportunity. Obviously learned some things that day. I think the threesome that I was in, it was Bob Tway and Joe Daly, none of us played particularly well.

Joe probably played the best out of all of us. Just hope to get off to a good start, hit some fairways and greens, and as I always try to do, just give myself chances.

Q. To maintain this good start for tomorrow in your routine, anything you're going to do tonight that you did last night maybe, or places to eat?

JOE DURANT: I'm not sure. I'm going to go home and pack, get ready to go after this. I don't know, I haven't figured out what I'm going to do quite yet. But I'm getting fat this week, been eating pretty good all week.

Q. You're not superstitious like that? Scott says he likes to go back to the same restaurant when he has a good round.

JOE DURANT: Sometimes I am, I guess, but not all the time.