

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: JOE DURANT
May 2, 2015



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Joe, sort of a crazy finish but you shoot 68 today, bounce back from a double at 17 with a nice birdie at the last hole and right now you and Michael Allen share the lead. Just a couple thoughts about the day. You got off to a nice start with four birdies in the first eight holes.

JOE DURANT: Yeah, I played really good on the front, hit a lot of good shots. 4under was just a nice solid 4under, nothing special really. Then played real solid on the back, missed a couple of opportunities, made a really good twoputt on 14, the 3par for par to kind of keep things going. And then 17 I hit a perfect tee shot but I just absolutely just blanked out for a minute on 17. As a result, I hit it in the water and made double. But came back with a nice birdie on 18. I played very well. I hit a bad shot on 17 but so what, you know? You're going to hit bad shots from time to time, that was just not the time to do it.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: You're in good position now going into the last round. Lots of guys, though, made a move today and it's tightened up.

JOE DURANT: Yeah, the conditions were perfect for scoring today. They're firm, but if you hit a proper shot, you can get the ball close to the hole. With no wind or very little wind, it's there.

Q. Joe, you said you kind of blanked out on 17. What club did you hit in the water?

JOE DURANT: You know, I think I had 164 to the hole, 7iron, but it just looked so short to me and the wind would come up a bit, then it would lay down a bit and I just felt like the way the ball was traveling today I was going to go long, so I tried to take something off of it and I just didn't commit to it. It was totally my mistake, I just hit a poor short. It went in the water, just a terrible shot, but those things happen. You can't dwell on it, you've got to go because 18's a really good hole, and I hit two really good shots, made a nice eightfooter, was glad to pick that one up.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: What did you hit into 18?

JOE DURANT: A 6iron.

Q. Joe, as you said, a lot of guys moving up. What's it going to take to have a leader really step up tomorrow?

JOE DURANT: Exactly what guys like Scott and Woody and those guys did, shoot 6under today. I think if the conditions are similar, and I think the forecast is kind of

bearing that out, isn't it, Phil?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Maybe a little more wind.

JOE DURANT: A little more wind, the pins will be a little tougher probably. 5 or 6 under, someone's going to come out of the pack and shoot a round, so you've just got to go out and play a good round of golf.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: I looked it up, you tied for second here, I guess, in 2001.

JOE DURANT: Yes, with Hal Sutton. Hal won that year.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Were you in a position going into the last round, do you remember anything about that?

JOE DURANT: I think Lee and I might have been tied or I might have been leading by a shot, I'm not sure. I had already won twice that year, and if I had won that week, I think I would have made the Ryder Cup. So I was really back then you had to Top 10 to get points, it was a different format, but finished second and didn't eventually didn't make the team, which was disappointing. I had a good chance to win here and I just didn't quite come through. I've always loved this golf course, though. It's one of my favorite courses we played on the tour back in those days.

Q. We hear that from everybody.

JOE DURANT: I think it rewards good shotmaking. Any kind of player, a long hitter can win here, I think a short hitter can win here, I think you just have to control your distances very well. And when the greens have these little fingers to them like the do, and if you're a good iron player, you can fit the ball in there. You can shoot good scores, but if you miss them a little bit, you're scrambling.

Q. Definitely have to hit the fairways out here?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, the fairways are pretty generous for the most, but you need to be in them to control the ball because if you get in this rough, you can't stop it, the greens are too firm.

Q. Joe, you mentioned that you put 17 behind you and you did, you birdied 18. When you got to the tee box, what are you thinking about because it's got to burn you a little bit taking two strokes away?

JOE DURANT: Yeah, 10 years ago I would have probably been fried. No telling, I might have made another double I would have been so mad. But I'm just kind of at the stage now that I'm not going to let it get to me like that anymore. I'm enjoying playing out here. You still burn, you still want to play well, but you kind of learn over the years

that you just have to let that go and step up on the next hole and play it like it never happened. It's very hard to do, but that was my mindset going to the tee. You know, it's history, nothing to do about it, let's just make a couple good swings and see if we can get a 3.

Q. It was a 6 iron on 18?

JOE DURANT: Yes.

Q. And how many feet?

JOE DURANT: About eight feet. Hit a real good shot in there, yeah, hit a real good shot. But the pin was in a place where, you know, I'm a cutter so if you hit it just left the flag, it hits, it's going to release down to the hole from the left, so it was a perfect setup for me.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Anything else? Good luck tomorrow.

JOE DURANT: Thanks.