

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: JESPER PARNEVIK
May 8, 2016



Q. This is your second win here in the state of Texas, and this is your first win since 2001 at Honda, so it has to feel nice to get back in the winner's circle again.

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yes. It feels fantastic, actually. I'm still in shock, because when it's been this long, you know, you don't even remember how it is. My family, I think that's what they are the most happy about, is actually the Hawaii trip, they don't care if I win or lose or whatever. They don't even watch me play or whatever. Going to Hawaii is huge for them and it's just going to be a lot of fun. And to win this event, Insperity did such a great job with the tournament. I played it for the first time last year and didn't do very well, but me and my wife, Mia was here, we had a great time, with all the legends here doing what they do, and then the normal tournament and all that, and they did such a great job organizing, volunteers, everything. So I think most guys would agree it is probably one of their favorite weeks of the year.

Q. You spoke yesterday about, that it was nice to have the butterflies again. It's been a while, but I mean up with the fourshot lead at the end, were the butterflies gone?

JESPER PARNEVIK: The butterflies got even bigger. I mean, I was happy about the fourshot lead, but that tee shot on 17 is not a nice shot, you know. Jeff kind of pulled it a little bit and that's all you have to do and then you're in the water there and then you get a drop and then you have to hit it over, and then 18 played really long. I mean, I had 215 to the pin and I crushed the 3-iron iron, it was playing more like 235. I was almost thinking of hitting the 3wood. So butterflies were definitely there. There were still a lot of bad options possible when it comes to my scorecard, and I think for most places like that, you don't every really relax and take it for granted until it's finally over. When I was on the green here, I felt it was over. But it was weird, I didn't feel very confident all day, actually. You know, Jeff and Mike played really well. Jeff started birdie, birdie. So I just kept very patient. I had it going really well, and then I 3putted 13 and 14 and that kind of set me back a little bit. I felt I was in charge there, and then, you know, both Mike and Jeff birdied 14 and they became tied again, but the key putt was the hole put on 15, and then both of them bogeying 16.

Q. You had a really long 3putt down on

JESPER PARNEVIK: Well, 14 was kind of 14 was up on a plateau there, which you cannot be there, and I managed to leave it short somehow. But, you know, it's always nice, you know, when I come out here everybody is asking me when is going to be your first win, are you going to get a win soon, and like I said, these guys are good out there. I am baffled by some of the scores you see out there. Especially when Bernhard gets loose and shoots those 61, 62, and you go "What's going on here?" And he's

impressive, Bernhard. I would say he is more dedicated now than I ever seen him in his career. He works, I bet you 10 full hours a day on the golf course. It's amazing. I go into the fitness trainer at 6:00 in the morning, he's there. I leave the fitness trainer at 6:00 in the afternoon, he's there. And it just yes.

Q. I'm sure you feel like you got cheated out of a lot of years with all your injuries on the regular tour. Do you feel like you can maybe compensate here now?

JESPER PARNEVIK: That was a blessing in disguise in a sense, because I don't know if I would have been as keen or eager to play right now if I would have played those eight years fulltime, because, you know, you see a lot of guys get a revival almost coming out here and they get a new kick start in their career and they think it's fun again. But, I mean, I think I was really looking forward to playing on this tour because I've had, you know, so many injuries and I haven't played much. My form wasn't that great, but I was still looking forward to coming out here and compete, and I think that's the key that kept me practicing so much. I'm happy with that, too, that my body feels so good that I can practice a lot. I mean, I even hit balls for an hour after a round yesterday and I didn't feel that great, you know. I didn't hit many shots this week that I was fully, fully confident, actually, so it was a very, very nice win in that sense.

Q. When was your last surgery, major surgery?

JESPER PARNEVIK: It was two or three years ago, when I cut my finger off. And before that, I had hip surgeries and I've done it all. So it's nice, yes.

Q. What do you remember about winning the Byron Nelson? That was also in Texas.

JESPER PARNEVIK: Byron Nelson, that was also in the pink pants, don't forget that. That was the last time I wore the pink pants. And that was also a great win, because it was so tight, it was me, Phil Mickelson, and Davis Love, and Tiger I think missed the playoff by one, so it was a good group of players, and we played a few times and I birdied 17 and Phil Mikelson birdied it, and Davis Love, I think it was. And it was a good, good win. To win against players like that in a playoff is always special.

Q. What do you remember about losing the playoff in the Valero in 2007?

JESPER PARNEVIK: That, I was not playing very well then. I was really hitting up and down, hitting from everywhere, and that was the shot I hit into 18 when I had to take a drop, and I just threw something over some bushes from about 180 up to two feet and actually saved par. So I think, really, Justin Leonard won in the end, but I always enjoyed Texas. I don't know why it is. I don't know if it's the wind or whatever. I've always had a good time here.

Q. Are you serious about the pants?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yes. This week was only because of the breast cancer cause, but I used to have pink pants on Sunday regularly. I think that was the last time, actually, when I won the Byron Nelson.

Q. I thought you were joking.

JESPER PARNEVIK: The outfit looks exactly the same.

Q. Does that mean you're boring?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Oh, yeah, yeah. I made a lot of money with those pink pants before, so I might be out there again with these pink pants.

Q. Did you ever think, I mean, 15 years, that's a long time between wins.

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yes. I mean, I thought I was never going to win again. I pretty much thought not play again, because a lot of times if I hit 15 balls, I could not get out of bed the next day, it was that bad. So I was not even contemplating winning. I mean, it was more thinking about if only I could just keep it going to come out here and enjoy it out here. But then all of a sudden I get better, and then, knock on wood, I have been feeling good ever since.

Q. There was a point in your career

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yes. There was a point where I didn't hit, for a few years, I could take a six, seven month break between shots, where I hardly even ever touched a club. It almost becomes the norm, so you don't even think about it, you know? Six months really is not that big of a deal. So, yes. This is fantastic in that sense.

Q. Jesper, can we get your birdies real quick? Number 5, par 4.

JESPER PARNEVIK: 5, I hit a 7-iron from 190, to three feet.

Q. And Number 6, a par 5?

JESPER PARNEVIK: 6, I hit a wedge to about 15 feet.

Q. Number 9?

JESPER PARNEVIK: 9, I hit an actually sand wedge to about two feet.

Q. And then 11 and 12?

JESPER PARNEVIK: 11, I hit a wedge on the right bunker to about three feet. And 12,

I hit a 9-iron no, I hit a wedge to about 20 feet.

Q. And then 15, a par 5?

JESPER PARNEVIK: 15, I made a great up and down from the left of the green, left to actually, left of the cart path, knocked it up to about six feet.

Q. That was the last one, at 15?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yes.

Q. Sounds like all your birdie putts other than the 20footers were all you were playing

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yes. I knocked it off, 15 and 2 there with a 3-putt. That was a long one. 14 was just tough. Both my partners I played with hit it short, and I hit the 6-iron, so I just knocked the heck out of my 7 iron and then I went upper plateau, which is impossible almost.

Q. What goes through your mind? I mean it's really early in the day and Jeff comes up with two birdies. Are you thinking "well, here we go"?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Well, you know, it was a long day, but of course, you know, I played with him yesterday. He is playing so solid. He doesn't miss, actually. That pisses you off a little bit, because he doesn't miss. Especially with his driver, he just kills every shot. And so that's a little bit but I tried to make myself not rush things and try to go for too many pins and try to catch up, because you never know. But you don't expect Jeff to miss many shots, you know. And in that way I was very fortunate.

Q. He has been trying to win in Houston, where he lives, you know, Jesper.

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yes. I can see why he wins the Houston Open and all that stuff.