

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**May 4, 2018**



**JEFF MAGGERT (-6)**

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**MODERATOR:** Everybody knows, I'm sure, Jeff Maggert, a hometown guy.

Can you just talk about your round a little bit today and the success that you had, six birdies?

**JEFF MAGGERT:** It was a good day, obviously. To be honest, I didn't hit the ball well the first nine or ten holes. I was kind of all over the course, and managed to hit it close a couple of times.

And then on the -- starting on the 11th hole, I just tried to just, like, take a deep breath, not swing so hard, and just kind of get back on to my game plan, and I hit a lot of good shots coming in.

Hit both par 5's in two, and two-putted for birdies. Hit a ball close on 11, hit a ball close on 17, hit a ball close on 18. So, when you're putting from three and four feet, it's a little bit easier.

**MODERATOR:** How much have you played this course? Do you have a little bit of advantage here?

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I have lost track. I have played every Houston Open from about '88 or '89, all the way through when they were playing over here. Plus all the times as a kid, different tournaments.

And the course hasn't changed much over the years either, so it's very comfortable when -- when I'm hitting the ball well, it's comfortable. But it's been a little struggle. I have been a little off my game lately, and I was looking forward to this week to kind of get things back on track.

**MODERATOR:** Any questions?

**Q. Jeff, you know this course better than anybody, but how do you explain your success the first round? I guess from 14, 15, 16, you shot 68, 67, 68. And you had another good round --**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I think it's just confidence. You know, you come out and you know the course well, and -- more than anything. And I have had a lot of good rounds over the years here. I have had some bad ones, too, but we forget those. And the older I get, I don't remember the good or the bad, so --

But, anyway, I do have a lot of good memories, a lot of -- I think more than anything is I have played from all different positions on the golf course and had success. And what I mean by that is, you got holes like 7 and 17 and 18 that are easy holes to make a big number on. And to be able to be in different -- you know, see all the different pin placements that they have had over the years and know that I can hit a shot to that pin, get it close and make birdies, and I think again that's just confidence. And, you know, not seeing the surroundings, just focus in on hitting a good shot and hitting it at the flag.

**Q. You have -- there has been a variety of reasons why you haven't closed the deal after great first rounds. Is there any theme or that you can say, okay, Jeff, here's what we got to think about tomorrow morning?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, like every tournament, it's -- on our tour, it's three days you got to come out. And our tour is more of a sprint. The guys on our tour play well. When you play a four-round tournament, you have that opportunity to have that one day where you're not quite as sharp. But if you do that out here, you're not going to win.

In this course, and the players, I just feel like you just got to play three really good rounds, probably 5, 6, 7 under each time.

And, you know, I tell people -- people always ask me, it's like, you guys on the Champion's Tour, it's like you all are shooting some low scores. And I'm saying, well, these guys still play pretty good out here. You get them on a course like this, where everyone is familiar with this course, because they have played it a lot of times, and these guys -- their iron shots and short game are just as good as they were 25 years ago, so you got to come out here and you got to perform and play well.

**Q. Speaking of which, Bernhard is out there about to attack the course record. You shoot a 66, you could be three shots off the lead.**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, I expected a lot of low scores today. The wind didn't blow at all. And with the humidity, the greens are pretty soft. They're staying receptive. So, you know, I was expecting, you know, a 7, 8, or even a 9 under today, really. I mean, I thought someone would get there.

**Q. The person who could do it would be Bernhard.**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah.

And then I think you're seeing a lot of other 4, 5, 6 unders as well. So, like I said, perfect scoring conditions today.

**Q. Some thoughts there might be some pretty heavy rain perhaps this evening. What does that do to this course?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, it's going to play a little longer. The course is really firm. The fairways are firm.

And holes like No. 1, guys are hitting irons into the green.

And even 13 was -- if you hit a good drive there, you could knock it on the green in two. 15 is the same way. So, those holes are going to play a little bit tougher.

But other than that, the greens are going to be receptive.

I think more than anything is just the amount of wind. The course plays a lot trickier with the wind.

The pro-am days were very, very windy, so everyone got a taste of it. And I think today they were just licking their chops, you know, no wind, and fairways are good. Golf course is in good shape, so --

**Q. What about being able to shoot a round like this and go to your own house and spend the night?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah. It's always -- I always say it's a little bit harder playing at home, even when you're playing well, because, you know, I'm up walking the dog and taking the trash cans out, just like I normally do. So, there are those other little things.

In a tournament away from home, you're in a routine. You know, you get there on Tuesday, you got your practice, your pro-ams, and you're in a real steady routine. And, you know, when you're at home, you just get a curveball every now and then, and the wife says, hey, you got to go get the kids at school. Yeah, I got to go do that. Or Madeline's at dance, can you go pick her up? So your routine is a lot different when you're at home.

**Q. From getting in your car when you leave the course today to your front door is how many minutes?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** It's about four miles, four or five miles. In the Woodlands, that could be -- that could be seven or eight minutes or 25 minutes, but --

**Q. You should have tried coming up from town today.**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah, I hear you. Yeah, it's not -- this little part of town is not like it used to be 25 years ago, that's for sure.

**Q. Which of the courses around here do you play the most?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I bought a membership at a course called Carlton Woods the very first year it opened. And that's real close to where I live in the -- I call it the back of the

Woodlands, but -- and just been a great -- had a great time being a member there. Still am. And I spend a lot of time in South Carolina now.

But I don't play this course often at all. I played here last Friday with some buddies, just to see the course. And to be honest, they were giving me a pretty hard time about how I was hitting. They said, you had better sharpen your game up for next week. But it was good to get on the course and see it. But, literally, I think that was the first time I played it since last year's tournament.

**Q. (Inaudible.) isn't that basically his course?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** He bought a membership there as well maybe 12 months ago.

**Q. Yeah.**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I'm not sure when, I just -- but, you know, he played a lot of golf on this course, took lessons up here some, so --

**Q. Get to know him some?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** You know, not much. I played with him a little bit at the tail end of my career, when he was, you know -- 13, 14, and 15 were kind of the end of my regular tour, and he was just coming up. I think he won a tournament in -- 2013 was his first one that he won. I was kind of finishing off. But I did play with him a few times. Good player, obviously.

**Q. Don't cross paths with him all that often at Carlton?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** You know, I see him out there every now and then. My son is 13, and he's there every day after school. And, you know, guys that are playing 25 tournaments on the road, when they come home you might not see them, but if he's out, he might be hitting some practice putts or hitting a few balls.

**Q. And obviously as a Houston guy, can I get you to weigh in on what's going on with the Houston Open, the sponsorship changing, the story this week about the Astro's owner is going to get involved. Just your thoughts as a Houston -- a person with a long history at the Shell Houston Open?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I'm hoping and I'm confident that something will get worked out.

You know, it's funny, I'm just two or three years removed from playing in that tournament, so I'm a little bit out of the loop.

I think, you know -- and when I grew up, the Houston Golf Association was a very powerful golf organization, as far as raising money with the community. And I think Shell being such a long-term sponsor of the event, I think that organization just kind of

lost its way a little bit, because a lot of those guys, if they needed \$200,000 for the tournament, they were out beating doors, asking their friends, hey, you know, let's pull this thing together. I know it's more expensive now to sponsor a tournament, but I think that grassroots effort is probably not what it used to be, but hopefully maybe this is a wake-up call to kind of revive that organization.

**Q. Do you have any thoughts personally on the fact that the Astro's owner, who is a golf guy, is going -- says he's going to take the lead on this?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, it makes sense. And you need maybe someone to bridge it, to be a bridge for a few years. I don't know if he's interested long term. Hopefully he is. But, you know, the ideas that I have heard floating around in Memorial Park sound great, you know, and a classic course they used to play 60 years ago. So, I think that's a -- they're all great plans and ideas, but it just takes a little bit of money and some sponsorship to make it happen.

**Q. You would be I guess stunned thinking of this tournament going away, given its history, right?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah. I mean, I don't see it happening, but, again, there's been tournaments on the tour that -- you know, you would think, oh, this tournament will never go away, but the world of sport is tough. It's all about sponsorship dollars, and if those don't come through the coffers, then it's very difficult to produce a PGA tour event at the caliber that you see on television week in and week out without the money.

**Q. Thank you, Jeff.**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** You're welcome.

**Q. Were you an HGA golfer?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I played in the HGA Junior Program, yes. To be honest, it was probably one of the best junior programs in the state, if not the country. That was kind of a -- a big part of their organization was running those junior tournaments in the summertime.

I got to know Duke Butler when I was probably 12 years old. He was the executive director. And he spent just as much time at those junior tournaments in the summertime than he did running the Houston Open. So, that's -- that's kind of what I'm saying. That organization has shifted a little bit over the years. And a lot of the older members are -- some of them have even passed on. Paul Wahlberg was a huge supporter of the HGA. And, you know, with guys like that in the business community, they don't have the numbers that they probably used to have.

**Q. What would it mean for you to win this tournament this week?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, you know, winning is important wherever you're at. This is kind of a transition for me to the Champion's Tour. And I'm just lucky they are playing the tournament here, because this is a course that I know really well. And I have gotten to know Paul Sarvadi and the Insperity guys. Just super people. And if you can take in an organization and say this is how a sponsor should utilize a Champion's event or a tour event, watch what he's doing.

And I think 15 years they have been a sponsor, which is a long time for our tour, so -- and they're signed on for another three, I heard, so it would be nice to win just to give something back to those guys.

**MODERATOR:** Thank you.