

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 8, 2018



PAUL GOYDOS (-8)

Q. You started out the day with an eagle that kickstarted you into a really good round. Is that how you felt as you started the day?

PAUL GOYDOS: It was a good start, and the bogey at 4 wasn't a big help. I actually made a good par on 5 and a good par on 6. And then birdieing 7, 8, the -- probably the 10-footer on 7 for birdie to get back to 2 under, and then made a long one at 8, I think that's kind of the stretch that really got me thinking things are going my way.

Q. What is it about this tournament? I was just talking with your caddie and I think if you maintain the lead at 8 under right now, this will be six out of seven rounds that you've led this tournament.

PAUL GOYDOS: Yeah, it's pretty wild. I don't know. Maybe it's the time of year. I guess I handle this kind of weather, these tough weather conditions where it's 85 and blowing 1. The course at Desert Mountain I really like. I really like this golf course. It's a nice, old school, desert golf course that I like playing. It's fun to play.

Q. What were some of the tougher holes today?

PAUL GOYDOS: You know, you can get off to a good start. I want to say Petrovic got off to a good start, and then but 8, the -- I made birdie, but if you kind of make a mistake there, it's a hard hole. And then 10, 11 and 13 -- 11, yeah, I made a lucky birdie on 11, quite frankly. I mean, 12's -- but 13, 14, there's a lot of holes here that if you're playing good, they don't come across that hard. I drove the ball in the fairway a lot. If you don't do that, all of them kind of get a little difficult. But those are the holes, you know. And then 16 isn't that -- 17's not that easy. I drove it good on 17, but again, if you get yourself out of position, they're all pretty tough.

Q. So knowing it's a little different this year as a four-round competition, what's the strategy? Got a little bit more to go to sustain the lead.

PAUL GOYDOS: Yeah, you know, the problem you have is the golf course is in perfect condition, the weather's perfect. It's going to be hard to keep the scores down. 8 under par's going to finish 15th and 20th maybe, so you need to kind of keep going. And you don't really kind of worry about too many things until -- it's a cliché, but the back nine on Sunday, you start making decisions. I was happy today. When I wasn't comfortable, I shot away from the flags. On 12 with the water and 2 with the water, I played safe, so I was making good decisions out there. Just keep doing those things and try to take advantage of the good things.

Q. Like really wanting to end the year strong, thinking about trying to finish --

PAUL GOYDOS: Yeah, to some extent, yes. I had a year on Tour where I finished second to keep my card in the last event and won the next year in the first event. But I try to -- you know, I don't know that the last tournament's any more -- I try to play as well as I can in all of them, believe it or not. It doesn't look that way sometimes, but yeah, I played well last week. It's nice to play well in the Playoffs. Hopefully, I can play well this week.

Q. And does this sort of set you up for the next day where you kind of go for it?

PAUL GOYDOS: Well, it's just nice to -- you get off to a good start, you kind of feel like you're in the tournament a little bit. I get to sleep in a lot tomorrow. But again, 8 under's -- it's not a place to be resting on your laurels. Unfortunately, the weather and the perfect conditions are going to keep the scores low, so you're going to need to keep your pedal down and keep going.