

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 31, 2018



ROD SPITTLE (-4)

Q. You're a bit emotional here after that great 66. What's going through your mind?

ROD SPITTLE: Oh, I'm not sure we have enough time, and you probably know. I mean, a little bit of everything. I mean, not to be corny, we've had a fun week. Annie and I came in a day early, of course. It's just -- as I've told everybody all week, it's great to come home and play obviously. And yeah, we scheduled it this way. And I'll tell you, I never really thought it was that big a deal. It was just time for us to begin to kind of ride into the sunset and we picked our 11 tournaments and that's all cool. Obviously we set it up to do it here at home, so that's all great.

We've loved every step of the way. Annie and I have done it together, of course, and so I couldn't have done it without her. Then you're going to say, well, you just had 66. Yeah, that's pretty cool. That beats my target score by about 10 for the day. So now we're off and running and puts a little bit of a different spin on everything. We'll see if we can -- we'll see if we can do that a couple more times, how about that?

Q. Absolutely. I saw you on 17 there, you were a bit of a mess?

ROD SPITTLE: Yeah, we're lucky we survived. Oh, my gosh, it was -- I played pretty well all day obviously. I mean, that's an understatement. I putted very well and I was kind of right in between clubs and I tugged a little 6-iron. The wind's been moving around, so it was kind of hard to figure it out. You know, as soon as I hit it I knew it was long and left and there's just trash cans over there, so I'm lucky we're still not there. So yeah, making 5, I mean, it's so cliché, sometimes 5 or 6 can be better than a 3 or 4 and that was one of them without a doubt. And then obviously the putt goes in on 18, so I kind of forget what we did on 17.

Q. Were you happy to see that one drop on 18?

ROD SPITTLE: Oh, yeah. And again, it's about 20 feet, I guess, 18, 20 feet and we had a good spot, it was pretty level. Just try to hit the best putt you can, of course, you know that, and yeah, we kind of found the bottom. So a really nice way to finish. It sets us up for a great weekend, there's no doubt about it.

Q. Great. Seems like you had fun with your partner today?

ROD SPITTLE: Oh, yeah, it's a great group. Gary Hallberg probably has the best swing on the Champions Tour, we played a bunch together. And Glen Day's a close friend. They're both great guys, both very good friends. And again, everybody played pretty well, which is

always nice. You feed off each other that way, a bunch of good shots. Again, I think we would take all of those scores for another couple days, that's for sure.

Q. (No microphone.)

ROD SPITTLE: When we got started, we didn't know how long we were going to last. Then we hung in there, and then obviously after we won in San Antonio, again, it's hard to believe, it's the end of 2010, so it's eight years ago. That obviously put us in a different line and bought us some time to keep going.

As you've heard me say all week, I've stayed healthy during our time out here. That was the one -- that's been a huge plus. And then obviously we stayed between 20 and 50 on the Money List, that's how we stayed fully exempt. This way, by walking away this way, we've been able to pick the 11 tournaments we wanted to play in this year. Again, that's not by accident, and finishing here just seemed to make sense. Obviously we're going to try to play as hard as we can.

But just wonderful memories. You've heard me say from day one I'm extremely proud of having a Canadian flag on my bag. It's just -- you know, as I told a couple people, it's just pretty cool sometimes when dreams come true.

Not to be too corny, growing up I always thought I wanted to win a tournament on the PGA TOUR and mine just happened to come on the Champions Tour. That's why we've been smiling from day one.

Q. I know you've been pinching yourself for kind of 13 years now. Is it emotional knowing this is it?

ROD SPITTLE: A little bit. You know, it may hit next week. It's just that now, after being here for five or six years, I know people, and the marshals are always gracious, of course. Guys have asked, what will we miss. Well, we'll miss everything. We waited a long time to do this. We, again, loved every minute of it.

So yeah, hopefully I can get through tomorrow and Sunday without crying too much and walking off the first tee and stuff, but that's what makes our sport so great. Again, we've been incredibly blessed to tiptoe into this golfing fraternity, as you know. It truly has been a Cinderella story for us.

Q. It's hard to put into words I know right now, but what's it mean to play this well knowing what this week means?

ROD SPITTLE: I'll tell you, it's a polite surprise because I've played part time this year and I haven't played very well. I've played hooky a little bit more often than we normally would. In the last month things just started to click a little bit. I've driven it better, I've puttied better.

I played two weeks ago at Dick's in Endicott and I had a good Sunday and finished T-10. All of a sudden, every time I look up, the ball's going pretty straight. I keep saying to Butch, maybe we could keep playing a little while longer. You know, I mean, that's why everybody plays and practices. So again, if we could do that obviously for another couple days and kind of stay close to the lead, that would be really cool I think for everybody, no doubt about it.

Q. I'm sure you're going to tell me to hold my horses, but what if your name's there at the top this weekend, does anything change?

ROD SPITTLE: No, it really wouldn't. I can't -- no, nothing changes.

Q. You already told your grandkids you would take them to --

ROD SPITTLE: You've heard that story, you're probably tired of hearing about it. Again, I'm pretty much locked into our 11 events, that's part of our retirement package.

Again, guys have said, How much will you play next year? I might play a little bit, but again, it's too hard to play part time. I'm not about to get in the way of guys who are working every day and trying to keep their job and the whole thing.

So again, as I've told a few people this week, when I won, I was 55 when I won, just took its time to get out here and figure it out and kind of get lucky. I just had the -- you could do the math like I do. I mean, I still find it hard to believe that I'm 60-something, let alone 63. But it's just between us, I haven't told too many people this week, my pet peeve is I think most athletes stay too long in whatever sport they're in and we were not about to do that by any stretch. So again, that's why we could have played 20 events this year, a full schedule, but this is just a little more fun to walk out the front door this way.

Q. 66 doesn't seem like a guy who stuck around too long.

ROD SPITTLE: Well, you're very kind. Yeah, it might be -- it might be the best round of the year. You just go figure sometimes. Yeah, so we'll see if we can do it, like I say, a couple more times. You guys are great, I appreciate the time.