ROUND 1 INTERVIEW February 8, 2019



JESPER PARNEVIK (-9)

Q. It's actually a career low for you, which I'm sure you know.

JESPER PARNEVIK: I worked so hard this last month, too. Nothing worked. I probably tried 40 putters just this week. I guarantee you 40 and probably 50 different strokes, and yesterday I had a complete panic. I hit balls for about eight hours, went out and I was up at Medalist, I went out and tried some, didn't work out. So back to the range, didn't work out.

At the last second, I said I'll do everything opposite from what I think. If I slide my hips like crazy, I feel like I'm hanging back, bam, that works. So I did that, which felt like terrible, but man, it was unbelievable.

Then I didn't decide to go to Cobra Puma this year, so I didn't have a hat sponsor. So a friend said, "Well, in case you win." I said, "Yeah, right. "Put on my hat, I just started a company." I had this made yesterday.

Q. So this is the second time in your career that you've led or co-led a tournament after the first round. How do you feel about that?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Man, I'm mostly shocked right now. But anyway, I mean, it's a great way to start the year. We didn't do the TV show this year so I had some time off with the family and all that, which was different. Well, the TV show is with the family anyways.

You never know when you start the year, so this was a great start. I've been looking forward to playing for a while because, as I said, we usually tape all November and December, so I had some time off this year. Actually did some practicing, which is why I ended up in the panic mode yesterday, why doesn't anything work? I'm actually practicing now.

Q. You had two hole-outs there. How were those shots, can you talk about those a little bit?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Hole-outs? Did I?

Q. How about a best shot that you had today or your favorite?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Oh, the best par was definitely on 9. Standing on that tee, I said I'll take any single digit number because I hate that fricking hole. Last year I hit three perfect drives and they all ended up in that bush on the left. I made double, double, bogey. So that was a good drive. Shit drive, shit second shot, great chip and a putt.

Q. How did it feel then to get that redemption on that hole?

JESPER PARNEVIK: You know, I mean, that's absolutely the toughest hole on this course. If that would have been 18, it would have been actually a very interesting finishing hole because you can make a big number there. And like I said, Stephen Ames made birdie. Especially in this wind it's tough because you're hitting driver, 6-iron, something like that, just trouble everywhere.

Q. How long have you been in Jupiter now?

JESPER PARNEVIK: I've been there for a long time, I've probably been there for 25 years living. I probably came in the mid -- well, I came down to Palm Beach mid '80s, so I've been here pretty much my whole life.

Q. And mostly you play out of Medalist?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Medalist, and that's where I'm a member at. I've been there since they opened up pretty much, early '90s. Pretty much everybody's playing there now; Tiger, Dustin, a lot of other good guys, Koepka, for example. I think they have over 130 touring pros in Jupiter, Florida, now, which is pretty unbelievable.

Q. You had a couple nice runs of consecutive birdies on both the front nine and the back nine.

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yeah. That was another thing, I came up with this long putter, like it's long and heavy, and I couldn't grip it so I tried this way, I tried up the arm. So I came up if I grip it all the way up and really loose and just flip my elbow out, so that felt good a little bit. I putted solid. I never tried to hole a putt, though; I just tried to get it forward and it went in today.

Q. Do you ever remember a time when you felt so bad about your game and played so well?

JESPER PARNEVIK: That happens a lot actually. Actually, last time I won in Houston there I came up with this weird swing move. It actually was a very good move, I don't know why I quit doing that. I won that tournament and I had no clue what was going on, but it happens. And then some weeks you feel absolutely fantastic and you finish 72th. But that's this game, it's a messed up game, absolutely messed up.

Q. How many times have you played with Bernhard?

JESPER PARNEVIK: Bernhard? Quite a few times, yeah.

Q. You'll be paired with him tomorrow.

JESPER PARNEVIK: Yeah. I think I'm going to have a more interesting round than he has. He doesn't miss much. Every shot is an adventure for me, so it should be fun.

We actually spend a lot of time together. Go home from tournaments and dinners and so on. We've known each other since the European Tour, a lot of Ryder Cups together. He's a great guy, always enjoy his company. Like I said, he's like a German machinery that doesn't fail very often.