

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
February 19, 2022



M.J. DAFFUE (-16)

Q. M.J., lowest round of the week today. Talk me through your round. How was it out there?

M.J. DAFFUE: Obviously very good. Different wind today. The first two days we had the same direction, today was opposite. It's always nice to get off to a good start. Birdieing the first four – and two out of the first four (are) some of the hardest holes on the course. Hit some good shots, made some good putts. I had a little bit of a slipup, but overall, I hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens, rolled a lot of good putts. It's a good day when everything goes your way.

Q. I'm going to have to bring up the Mondays. Did that teach you anything coming out of the gates hot, you know you have to go low? Did you apply that today?

M.J. DAFFUE: Yeah, if golf was as easy to just say, 'Oh, today I'm going to go hot,' then I guess we can all do it. I guess what Mondays taught me is to try and make eight, nine birdies a round of golf. Even if you make some mistakes, then you're still okay.

It's also taught me to stay in the moment and think round by round, hole by hole. Obviously I've been very fortunate to do something that not a lot of people have done with the Mondays, so it's not always a bad thing. It's sometimes a very good thing.

Q. Coming off a top-10 last week, what has that kind of done for you?

M.J. DAFFUE: It was big. It was like a mini goal for me because I wasn't in this event. I was like, man, I really want to be because it's a strong field and I want to play against the best.

So going out, coming down the stretch birdieing the last two, it showed me a little bit about myself. I played much better than that. I made 25 birdies last week and only finished T9, so trying to just replicate and keep on a run.

The family's flying in, they'll be here in 15 minutes, so it will be really nice to have them. Good momentum. Just trying to really conserve energy, not trying to waste any mental stuff on the small things.

Q. How often does your family get to come out and watch you play golf?

M.J. DAFFUE: Well, they came to the Houston Open and then some other tournaments, but my son is 18 months now, so we're going to try -- this will be his first one besides the Houston Open, so it should be fun.

Q. What will it mean to you having them here tomorrow?

M.J. DAFFUE: It will be great. My family's taught me to persevere and there's always someone there. And then having this little guy, it doesn't matter what I shoot tomorrow, I'll be okay.

Q. Anything stick out to you today, any shot in particular where you were like impressed or kind of caught you off guard?

M.J. DAFFUE: I'd say the 4-iron from like 240 yards on No. 3 to like 15 feet, that was a good swing. That's another one of those where I've been trying to just not fight the wind, just aim right and let the wind bring it back. Then there I knew something was going well. Putting well. Yeah, really not in particular anything, but I hit a really great 5-iron on No. 9 to about 20 feet, so I had an eagle look. Overall, comfortable with the wind and the lines.

Q. What about the course, anything that you think fits you in particular?

M.J. DAFFUE: It's pretty open off the tee so you can hit it pretty hard. Then I think what fits me is just the preparation. I've made two bogeys this week. One was a three-putt, the other one was in the dark on No. 18 in the first round. If I had some night vision, maybe I make that. Just preparation, missing in the right spots, getting it up and down, just being patient because it's easy to push too hard.

Q. When you look at like what elevated you this Q-School compared to last Q schools, what would you say it was?

M.J. DAFFUE: I didn't really put too much emphasis on Q-School, that's why. I tried to have a goal throughout Q-School, I wanted to be 60-under par through all three of the stages. I tried to win every stage, I tried to just go through the process. I actually fell one short, but with a little luck I got some starts and played well. It's just nice. I know I can play well if I can set a schedule. I don't know, Q-School was just obviously confidence. Made 10 PGA TOUR cuts, so was getting more comfortable.

Q. Is there kind of something to be said about second stage being almost the most important stage?

M.J. DAFFUE: Yeah, and maybe that's the biggest deal with it is Second Stage. Everybody puts a lot of emphasis on it, because then you get status. This year I decided to say, "Okay, I don't just want status, I have a goal at the end." Didn't get to the goal, but, once again, if you could keep playing good golf, eventually it will be good enough.

Q. And you mentioned your family coming in. Like when was that set they were going to come in?

M.J. DAFFUE: Well, I told her that, A, if I top-10 in Bogota, then they're going to come here. Then we'll spend some time in Florida for the next five, six days, then go back home and then my schedule is crazy. I've got to go to my brother's wedding in South Africa for nine days and then straight to Lafayette. No rest for the weary, I guess.

Q. What are you going to do in Florida for the next five, six days?

M.J. DAFFUE: We'll take the little guy to the beach. Never been to the beach. Then we'll go to Orlando, see some friends. Definitely go to the parks. We're big Disney people. We've got some connections, so that helps. Yeah, just trying to take some time off before I have to travel 28 hours to get to South Africa.

Q. How do you power rank the parks?

M.J. DAFFUE: Good one. Definitely Magic Kingdom, one; Epcot, two; Animal, and then Hollywood Studios.

Q. Do you have a ride or attraction at Disney overall?

M.J. DAFFUE: I like them all, but I would say Space Mountain.

Q. Timeless.

M.J. DAFFUE: Timeless, exactly.

Q. Are you going to try to drink around the world at all?

M.J. DAFFUE: I've done that before, yes. It's great. They've done some new things at Epcot that really elevated it, the ball, the light show. Yeah, honestly, it's just fun. It's like our happy place. Maybe one day we'll move to Orlando and do it more often.