

First-Round Transcripts | REX Hospital Open | Thursday, June 2, 2022

Jeremy Paul (-8, T1)

City Plays From: Heidelberg, Germany | Turned Pro: 2017 | College: University of Colorado
Exempt Status: Reordered With Points Finishers 2-10 & Ties Previous Years QT

On his round...

"I got off to a good start. I made birdie on the first hole and then another one on No. 3. I struck the ball really well today, I don't think I missed a green which helps. I hit a lot of good wedges today which was the key because some of the greens undulated, but if you hit wedges in you can be aggressive. I was able to hit a couple of shots close and I rolled in two putts outside of 20 feet, so that was a bonus. I hit it really well today which I think was the key. I got a lot of looks and was able to make sure I capitalized on it."

On his recovery from appendicitis...

"The surgeon at the emergency room thankfully just put me on antibiotics for the week and that seemed to have helped a lot and I haven't had any more issues with it, hopefully it stays that way. Thankfully I didn't have to get surgery and I'm here playing."

On his performance in his last four starts resulting in top-10s...

"I usually play pretty decent and hit a lot of greens, that's my main focus because the key is to not make a lot of bogeys and that's what I'm trying to do. The difference between finishing 25th or a top-10 is if I make those putts that are inside six feet and that's what I've been focusing on with my coach. That's the difference maker. If I make those putts inside six feet then I have a good chance of posting good, low scores. My focus has just been on the putting and that makes the difference on shooting two-, three-under and the round I had today."

On the course this week and how he is approaching it...

"Today it was really hot and we were fortunate enough to have some shuttles between some holes which is your only chance to catch your breath. The key is hitting good tee shots. On certain holes you will give yourself chances, but the fairways aren't too wide and they have a lot of slope, so if you hit a good tee shot you'll have a lot of looks. The key is to position yourself well and have some wedges in. The key is to hit good wedges and then you still need to make the putts, but I think that's the key to posting good scores out here, the wedge shots."

On if any particular wedge shot stood out to him today..

"I had one shot on No. 3, my twelfth hole, and I hit my ball in the left rough and the pin was tucked behind the bunker, so I just opened up the club face and made a pretty good swing. I thought when I walked up to the hole that I had gotten it to roughly 15 feet but I ended up hitting a perfect shot. It ended up being five feet (for birdie) and that got my round going and made a couple more coming in."

On his identical twin brother and their relationship...

"The last couple of years we always played together. We both played on PGA TOUR Canada and then he played good on The Challenge Tour and got his DP World Tour card, so he's playing out there. It's nice because with the time change usually he's done playing when I wake up. When I woke up today he was almost done and I could watch his score and he's playing in Germany right now. It's been awesome. We knew at some point we wouldn't take the same steps at the same time and we're both super happy."

There isn't a rivalry between us, we want each other to do well. If he has a decent week this week he might get into the US Open in a couple of weeks and I would be thrilled for him, that would be awesome. We try to help each other out, we are each other's coaches. When I feel a little off, I'll send him a video and he gives me some input and we bounce ideas off of each other. It's awesome to have your best friend and brother doing the same path. It's been a lot of fun."

On the confidence gained after making multiple birdies...

"On [Korn Ferry Tour] you always have to make a lot of birdies, 8-under is not going to win this tournament and so I have to keep coming out here and shooting low scores because I expect the winning score to be around 20-under. It helps if you get a couple birdies going early, but I feel like at some point when you make a couple, you just want to keep making more because you can't settle down and say 'oh 4-under is a good score,' you just have to keep going. The leaderboard is usually really packed and people are making a lot of birdies. It's just the morning wave and I'm assuming someone else will come up this afternoon and post a good score."

On heading into the rest of the weekend...

"Next week is my off week. I decided to take next week off so I just really wanted to enjoy this week. No matter what happens I'm going home next week and I haven't been home in six weeks. My mindset was to just come in here and have a good time and enjoy the process because when you play this many tournaments in a row it can happen where things don't go your way and you can go on a downward spiral. We're still playing golf and the tournament is run so well, it feels like you're playing on the highest level out here so you have to enjoy it more. Sometimes it's easier to get upset with your scores or whatever so I just tried to focus on the mindset this week to have a good time and enjoy being out here."



PLAYER (-X, Position)

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Exempt Status: XXXXX

On XXXXX...

"XXXXX."

On XXXX...

"XXXXXX."