

**First-Round Transcripts | Veritex Bank Championship | Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

**MJ Daffue (-9 / 1st – Tied 18-Hole Tournament Scoring Record)**

City Plays From: Pretoria, South Africa | Turned Pro: 2012 | College: Lamar University

Exempt Status (Season): Additional Qualifying Tournament Finishers (thru 2022)

Exempt Status (Event): Top 25 on Korn Ferry Tour Points List at Time of Reorder

*On tying the tournament scoring record with a 9-under 62...*

“I didn’t know that, otherwise I would’ve made one more birdie. Great day. Just happy to be here. My family was here, walked with me a few holes. Strange day in all honesty. The front nine, I probably had five birdie looks inside 10 feet and didn’t make any, but I kept believing and focusing on rolling good putts. I found something last night playing with my son’s little Captain America golf ball. It has a shield on it, so I was trying to putt with it and just make the shield roll end over end. It made me focus on the top, and I implemented it today and putted really well. Twenty-nine on the back, I felt like I could birdie every hole out there today. Good ball striking and made enough putts.”

*On whether he actually drew a shield on his ball today...*

“I just pretended. I can’t really draw a shield as good as it’s supposed to be. And a few other things, playing with my pro-am group was a lot of fun. They were asking me the ins and outs of how I approached the game, and it made me verbalize it and put some things in play. Sometimes that’s the best thing that can happen.”

*On what got his round jumpstarted...*

“I just had to make a putt. The first six holes (putts) were all within 15 feet, and I didn’t birdie No. 9, which is a really short par 5. I wasn’t happy, but that’s maybe why I went on a heater. I only missed two greens, so I had legitimate birdie looks on every hole. I think I only made one birdie putt outside of 10 feet, so I hit it really close today.”

*On his family watching him and inspiring him...*

“With a 19-month-old running around, he’s picking up the game so he’s swinging. For me, it’s been a big deal just getting away from the course. In all honesty, I didn’t feel prepared for today because I’ve been so focused on, when I’m at the golf course, to prepare, but when I’m at home I spend time with (his son, Oliver) and my wife (Kamila). When I came to the course, I was still focused on what happened this morning. I came too early, funnily enough, because of the delays. I accidentally worked my numbers a little bit wrong. Came here way too early, so I just had two lunches.”

*On leading by two strokes going into tomorrow...*

“Any time you’re leading a tournament, it’s a good thing. Three more rounds left, but it’s just golf. We try to hit every shot as best as we can, and there are a lot more people out there fighting for different things, struggling with different things. My motto, we are big Disney people, I try to do the next right thing. If that’s hitting a golf shot, then that’s it.”

*On whether there was pressure earlier in the year being without guaranteed starts...*

“Yeah, I did. There was a stretch start of the year, because I had COVID in January, where I got into Exuma and wasn’t really prepared. I didn’t touch a club for 12 days because I was really sick. When I went over there, I didn’t really have any expectations, top-15’d, and that set everything up. I’ve played really good golf the past three years. My biggest thing was I needed a full schedule. Monday qualifying and playing 10 events a season isn’t good enough. There was pressure, but I kept telling myself just keep playing good golf, eventually it will be good enough.”

*On being a pro for 10 years and whether he thinks his career is on the timeline he foresaw...*

“Coming out of college, I thought it would be much quicker. But the timeline is the timeline. Things happen for a reason. I’ve had to deal with a few things... with my mother in-law and father in-law both passing away, going through periods of depression, trying to adjust to not having any family in America. I had to grow up a little bit, I had to make a few changes, move to a different place, change coaches, and change my whole mindset as far as what’s important. I started focusing away from golf, and things started working out better. It’s taken a while, but at the end of my career if it took me (a) long (time) and I have major championships in my pocket, I don’t really care how long it takes.”

*On whether he has to fight the urge to be complacent with such a low round going...*

“Definitely. The last hole, the chip wasn’t a great lie, and I told myself to let go and swing the club. I can only control my contact. For me, Monday qualifying three years now, that’s kind of what it is. You try to birdie every hole. I’ve always told people I’m very happy, very fortunate to have done what I’ve done in Mondays because it taught me to make a lot of birdies.”

### **Justin Suh (-7 / 2nd)**

City Plays From: San Jose California | Turned Pro: 2019 | College: University of Southern California  
Exempt Status (Season): Qualifying Tournament Finishers 11-40 and Ties (thru 2022)  
Exempt Status (Event): Top 25 from Previous Event

#### *On his round today...*

"It was a slow start and then I got the good eagle on No. 18 and the wind started picking up, but we were hitting good numbers and shots all day long. That chip-in on No. 9 was great. But it's still the first round. The game is good, just need to stay consistent and hit some good numbers, looking to keep it going."

#### *On his last four starts...*

"I'm just staying consistent. I've put in a lot more gym work than I have in the past during this season. During the season I usually get lazy, but this season I changed things up. Back home, I'm still working on the same things, working on my numbers but there's just small stuff that I got better at, like certain numbers with the wedges and off the tees. It worked today."

#### *On the wind changing directions...*

"There was one hole that I had to hit it 50 yards left to the edge of the fairway. The fairways are wide... you can definitely get aggressive off the tee, which I think we did great on. Just staying aggressive."

#### *On the course set up...*

"It's not particularly long, so I do have a lot of wedges and I'd say that's my strength, probably 90-140 [yards], and I had a lot of those numbers. You have to give yourself birdie chances out here and if putts fall, putts fall, but you just want to give yourself those 10-, 12-footers for birdies all day long."

#### *On his mindset holding the lead...*

"I'd say consistency was key, so I'm not changing too much. Probably just work on a few things, go home, watch some Netflix and just chill."

#### *On changing his routine...*

"My trainer says 'effective minimal dose,' so it's two blocks, A and B, a mix of everything. We mix the push and pull on different days. It's not enough to get me sore for the next day, but it's definitely enough to feel like you're working."

#### *On if he works out while on the road...*

"For sure, probably six days a week. Like I said, effective minimal dose, so it's not too much."

#### *On his caddie...*

"Ryan Jameson. He's been on my bag since (LECOM Suncoast Classic). It's been working out great."

#### *On what shows he is streaming...*

"I'm actually on Amazon Prime, so I've been watching four shows in rotation: 'How I Met Your Mother', 'White Collar', a little bit of 'Royal Pains'. I got a few shows."



*On where his game is compared to his graduating class...*

"Obviously the guys I graduated with are doing exceptionally well, but for me, since I graduated I've progressively gotten better each year. When I first came out I wasn't too great, but each year I've seen improvement in different aspects of my game. As far as I'm concerned, that's all I care about."

*On if the question about the success of his grad class is getting old...*

"Yeah. The first couple of years out that was the only question I got from interviewers but, at this point, I just know I'm growing and getting better. Hopefully I can see those guys out there soon."

*On the mentality of his path...*

"Because they have done so well it's hard to compare myself but, as far as skills, I've felt like my game was there the first couple of years. It just wasn't performing to my standards that I was hoping for. I'm constantly improving and that's what's most important at the end of the day."



### **Martin Flores (-6 / T3)**

City Plays From: Frisco, Texas | Turned Pro: 2005 | College: University of Oklahoma  
Exempt Status: Exempt Medical

#### *On his round today...*

"I chipped and putted really well. The course is scoreable but it was very, very windy today. Anything I had inside of 10 feet I was able to convert and I hit a lot of wedge shots really close, so I gave myself a lot of opportunities."

#### *On the wind changing directions during his round...*

"The intensity didn't change, but certainly the direction. I caught [Nos. 3 and 4] and made bogey and double bogey on those two holes. They ate my lunch today. Those two holes played really tough, but I played and practiced a bunch so I was able to get a good feel for the golf course."

#### *On being local to the area...*

"I live about 40 minutes away. I went to high school about 15 minutes south of here and I've come to play golf here with my dad a few times, so I know the course but I don't get out here as much."

#### *On the small gallery following him today...*

"Just some family and friends, a good crowd and it was nice to play in front of them. It's great to have good support."

#### *On his medical journey and status...*

"I haven't really played in PGA TOUR events much over the last few years, so it's been a really big challenge to come back from this hip surgery. I'm just trying to do the best that I can and the results haven't been great this year so far, and it's been a lot more challenging than I ever thought it was going to be, being down that long. I'm working harder than ever and I've had good results in my practice, I just haven't quite put it together in a tournament. I'm starting to see a little bit of those results right now."

#### *On what clicked for him today...*

"I've just been making a lot of mistakes and haven't quite had those good rounds and haven't quite made those momentum putts, or up-and-downs, or whatever it might be. I've just been making too many mistakes and there isn't one thing that I can point at. I just have to be a little bit cleaner, and today I was."

#### *On Nos. 3 and 4...*

"They're tough. It's in on the left on both and they're long holes, 460 [yards] and 512 [yards], so if you're not in position off the tee it's going to make it pretty tough. I also hit it over the green on No. 3, so that's a really hard up-and-down for that hole location. Just two really hard holes today."

#### *On his perseverance to continue chasing his PGA TOUR card...*

"I just love the process of trying to get better. I love playing the game, I love working hard at it. I also want my kids to see me play, so that's a big motivator."

#### *On how it feels to be playing well...*

"It feels great. I feel good about my game and it's starting to trend in a good direction, so I just want to keep building."



*On the reality of playing well...*

"I never lie to myself. I'm very critical, unfortunately. I have to see results, then I know it's good."