ROUND 1 PRESS CONFERENCE April 26, 2023

JUSTIN LEONARD



Q. Thanks for joining us at the Insperity invitational. You've got to like how you finished today.

JUSTIN LEONARD: Yeah, it was a good start. Something I've been struggling with a little bit is getting off to better starts. Today was good. I'll be honest, I didn't feel great about my game this week, the last couple days. I haven't hit it as well. So maybe a little lower expectations might have helped today.

Q. How does this course fit your game?

JUSTIN LEONARD: I like the golf course. You can move it both ways off the tees, and greens are small. The areas where you're trying to hit it to are pretty small. I've played a lot of golf, college golf, early Houston Opens, so a lot of familiarity around this place.

Q. Talk about the birdie on 5.

JUSTIN LEONARD: Yeah, coming off a bogey at 4, hit a really nice drive, good number for a 7-iron, hit it to like four feet, rolled it in. It was a nice bounce-back.

Q. Was the wind a little tricky this afternoon?

JUSTIN LEONARD: Yeah, it was. The last three or four holes it was just moving around a little bit. My tee shot on 8, the par-3, came up pretty far short of the flag, and I think the wind had just changed a little bit from where we thought it was. But that's going to happen when you've got the tall trees like this. It can get a little swirly at times.

Q. The putt on 6, the green was a little --

JUSTIN LEONARD: Yeah, it was one of the nice times when I had it below the hole and I could be aggressive, but seemed like most of the putts I made I was actually above the hole. Yeah, a little disappointed with that because two good shots and then a nice wedge in there.

But Bermuda greens, you think even from 10, 12 feet, it's all going in the same direction, the grain, and it can change a little bit.

Listen, I'm not going to complain because I made plenty of putts today.

Q. Talk about the wind that picked up the last three or four holes. Seems like there was some really good scores around 10:00, 11:00, 12:00. When the wind picked up, would you say that's the biggest defense of this golf course?



JUSTIN LEONARD: Yeah, probably so. It did, it picked up -- we could feel it when we were coming up 17, so our eighth hole, and we were pretty early. But yeah, there was some good scoring early.

When you're trying to get it in these little areas where the pins are and the wind comes up, it just makes it that much more difficult.

But yeah, there's going to be some good scores. The greens are -- they're in good shape. They're not firm by any stretch. Tomorrow we're going to have a different wind and cooler temperatures, so now try and get ready and game plan for that.

Q. You haven't been on this tour all that long. It's a little bit of an adjustment when you're playing 54-hole tournaments, isn't it? How are you adjusting to that? JUSTIN LEONARD: It is. I don't know. I don't know that I've done the best job with that yet. I feel like you do have to get off to a good start. That makes the week much easier, and I haven't done that in all of my events, obviously.

Last week felt like I played pretty good, and somebody still goes out and shoots 5- or 6- or 7-under every day. I think it's something I'm still kind of getting comfortable with, and certainly getting off to a start like today, I don't have to really force anything the next couple days, just continue to hopefully play well.

