

Valspar Championship

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Palm Harbor, Florida, USA

Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead)

Stephan Jaeger

Quick Quotes

Q. Is that a Tennessee color?

STEPHAN JAEGER: No.

Q. Great finish. Nice round to start. Talk us through 18 and just how that hole played out today?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I hit it, it's a really hard tee shot for me with this wind off the left because I don't have enough room to start it left with the driver so I tried to hit a little low one and it fed to the right after it hit the wind so I got an awful lie in the right rough. I think I only had 150 and I tried to hit it in that front bunker to be honest with you that's the only play I had. I knew the bunker shot wasn't terribly difficult, but obviously making that is a bonus. I would have taken par any day of the week. So that was definitely a nice way to finish.

Q. What particular in your game was working well today?

STEPHAN JAEGER: I felt like my entire game felt pretty solid. I kept the ball in play, I hit some nice tee shots on some of the hard holes and when I did get off the fairway I tried to get myself as easy pars as possible. I did a good job of that. I chipped nicely, overall just solid round.

Q. Is there anything early week that you worked on or tweaked or focused on in your preparation?

STEPHAN JAEGER: I drove it pretty poorly last week at THE PLAYERS, so I put a little effort in this week on some setup stuff. Yeah, it felt really nice today. So I'm happy with it.

Q. How do you perceive this course or feel about it I guess now compared to earlier in your career, do you feel like it sets up better or the same or?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, I mean, it's one of those golf courses that if you're hitting it good and hitting it straight you can make a lot of birdies. Maybe not with the wind, but if it's calm you can make some birdies. The greens are



really good, the rough is literally the thickest I've ever seen it here. I had a lion 1, our first hole, that I tried to hit a 9-iron and it went about a hundred yards. So it's really thick in some spots, especially in the morning when there's dew, it gets wet, I mean it's thick. So it's a nice test this week, obviously with the wind today and tomorrow it will be a nice test and then once it gets firmed up on the weekend it will be the same.

Q. The wind is supposed to pick up this afternoon, how will the course, in what ways will the course play more difficult just with that wind?

STEPHAN JAEGER: I mean, yeah, it's wind, okay? You know, it's one of those golf courses, if you -- it's a lot of cross winds, I feel like. These fairways aren't really the widest. With the rough being thick your struggling to make par even on the par-5s. I would be interested to see some of those par-5s probably play pretty hard today. It's one of those golf courses, if you hit good drives and you can get pretty close, but if you're in some trouble, you can make a couple three, four five bogeys in a row easily.

Q. Does the forecast, did you look at the forecast at all like Tuesday, Wednesday?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Yeah, so I did look at it and I was fingers crossing on an early afternoon or early late wave, and the dream came true. But, no, you win some, you lose some. I've had terrible waves before and it looks like we may get a little better end of the stick on this one, but who know, maybe it will stop blowing and it will be nice in the morning and you never know. But the weather forecast did look pretty nasty in the morning, I think 50 or 48 or something and out of the north. So totally different wind tomorrow, I would imagine north and a little colder, the golf course is going to play different again, some of the par-5s maybe downwind that were in the wind today, so yeah, it's different challenge, for sure.

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