

Valspar Championship

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Palm Harbor, Florida, USA

Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead)

Jacob Bridgeman

Quick Quotes

Q. You're continuing your good form this season. Round of 3-under 68, bogey-free. How big was that putt on the last to make?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: That was a big one, even more than a normal par save, that one felt good. To go around here bogey-free, it means you're playing some good golf. I made a couple nice saves today to keep myself in it.

THE MODERATOR: Where did those nice saves happen?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: I hit it miles right off the tee, and then hit that into some more mulch where I hit a guy in the side. Then missed the green. It was just a mess. Got up and down for par there to start the day.

Then the one on 18 was a great one as well.

Q. What did you do particularly well today you felt?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: I probably would say stayed patient. I parred my first eight holes and I haven't done that a whole lot this year. I've been making a lot of birdies. So I think the thing here is stay patient, get the birdies when they come. And yeah, I made a nice one on 9 to kind of get things started. And then 11 and 12 as well. I just kind of stayed patient all day.

Q. Played really nicely here last year. What did you learn from that experience and that golf course that helps you this week?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, so I think last year I was leading after every day until the weekend or until Sunday. Yeah, I was in the last group on the last day and that was just kind of my first time seeing that and feeling that feeling. I think I expected to be a little bit more nervous than I was last year and I got up on the first tee and almost felt comfortable and it was odd. I think I'm more used to it now. I'm excited to kind of hopefully get back in the hunt.

Q. Do you think that experience last year has really helped you like this season and the way that you



started and gone on and won?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, for sure. Last year on Sunday I didn't play particularly well, and I lost by two. So I think that was just telling me that if I play good golf I can win out here. I won Riv, but I played amazing that week. And I think a week like this, where the golf course is hard, the scores aren't super low, it just kind of plays into my forte. I like those places where you don't have to go shoot 7-under every day to keep pace.

Q. How has your life changed since when you came to Florida last year, and now a year later, you're top 20 in the world. I mean, that Cognizant Innisbrook double kind of changed your life sort of, right?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, I was playing great golf back then and kind of rode the wave a little bit getting into some of those Signature Events, and luckily was able to keep in 'em the whole year and have some good finishes there. Then make it to East Lake without winning, which I think is pretty cool. That was a big accomplishment. But one of my big things last year was I wanted to win and I didn't do it. So while the season was great and I played well the whole year, I really wanted to get that win and I don't know that my life's changed a whole lot. I got married in December, maybe that changed my life a good bit. But the golf is what it is, and obviously I've been playing well recently.

Q. You're leading the FedExCup, and I know it's early in the season, but is that something in the back of your mind that you feel like, yeah, I can accomplish that, is that sort of something you think about?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, I think a little bit. I got to, when I won, I got to No. 1, and then was able to do that for, I guess, ride that out for a week when I played at Bay Hill. Then finished 18th and dropped, and I'm like, man, I got to finish top 10 to keep pace. But last week my goal was to go out and play well, see if I could go back to No. 1. It doesn't really matter a whole lot at this point in the season, but it's kind of a nice little thing to chase after. So I would like to stay up there see if I can keep pace.



Q. Have you played the Masters before?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: No, first time.

Q. So this is, so you -- have you played Augusta before?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: I played a couple times in college, yeah. At Clemson.

Q. So this is preparation for the Masters?

JACOB BRIDGEMAN: Yeah, I think the beginning of the year I kind of set off the schedule. I wanted to have two weeks off before. I knew I was going to take it pretty hard in Florida. So I played pretty much everything I planned on. I think I played eight of 10 weeks. So I knew I wanted to have a little rest before Augusta because that's a big week, first time it's going to be a lot mentally and physically. So this one kind of fit in my schedule great, it's one of my favorite courses as well, so, yeah, I planned it.

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