

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

October 22, 2026

JONATHAN BYRD (-7)



Q. That was fun, especially 6 through 10 where you go 6 under. That's the lowest six-hole stretch by the way in this tournament. That had to feel great.

JONATHAN BYRD: That was fun. I hit a lot of good shots, put myself in position, but my putter just got hot. That was the best putting round I've had all year. It was close to the best of my career if I would have made a couple coming in. It was funny, some of the better putts I hit, some of the best putts I hit today were coming in, just didn't go in.

You know, I kind of stole a few out there, I made two long ones on 9 and 10 after poor iron shots. I hit some really good shots into 7, the par 5. I hit 3-wood off the tee and 5-wood in there 30 feet. Hit a real good iron shot into 8 and made birdie. You know, felt good about my game. I didn't drive it great, but I just love these greens and seeing the lines well.

Q. I haven't seen you in a while, but have you changed the putting grip, a little pencil grip with the right hand? Is that something you've been doing for a while?

JONATHAN BYRD: Yeah, I went to the claw grip on the right hand and it was -- my stroke's not any better but I just kind of -- it's one of those things where I feel like it shuts my brain off, I'm not thinking about the mechanics as much from inside 15 feet. I feel more like a kid putting. You know, like what I'm going for is I want to putt like I'm 12 the rest of my life, just let it go. It helps me do that. I still putt regular handed from outside 30 feet.

Q. The Biltmore Championship Asheville, your 50th career start on the PGA Tour. You were out here in 2001, J-Byrd. That says something, that's longevity. You've avoided injuries. You've got to be very proud of that.

JONATHAN BYRD: I am proud of it. I told them in one of my interviews, it's like the one thing you have to have to be able to play 500 events is a supportive wife and I've got an awesome wife. To let me be gone -- fortunately they got to travel with me for a ton of those with young kids and those are the best memories of my life. For my wife to let me keep doing this, golf's hard on the PGA Tour after you turn 40 against these young guys and I feel fortunate to keep getting some reps in. Obviously looking forward to turning 50 here in about a year and a half or less.

Q. Forty-eight years young, we'll say. I know it's only Thursday, you've been out here a long time, you know what Thursday means, it's the first round. If you go on to win, in 2028 with the new schedule you're on the Championship Series. Have you thought about that?



JONATHAN BYRD: Not really. It's Thursday. Like you said, it's Thursday. We've got three more days.

But my goal coming in this week was to have a chance coming down the last nine holes. I feel like my game's good enough. I wasn't really pleased with how I struck it today, but my putter's great.

I feel good on this golf course. This is a golf course that I can compete on. I can't compete on a lot of courses on the PGA Tour, just being honest. I don't hit it far enough. This one, I can. And then with the wind coming up on the weekend, I feel like that gives me a little advantage, I'm good in the wind, control my trajectory, so it should be fun. We'll see what happens.

