

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT:
JASON DUFNER & DUSTIN JOHNSON
Thursday, December 12, 2013**



DAVE SENKO: The team of Jason Dufner and Dustin Johnson joining us. Maybe just get us started, each of you have played in this event a couple times, Dustin you won the event. Maybe just start us off talking about the fun of playing in this event and being one of the few team events that we have on TOUR.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, this event, I think Greg does a great job, it's a lot of fun. Played two pro-ams, which is fine, but we're in golf carts so that makes it a little bit easier. It's just really a relaxing week and, you know, it's good competition. We've got a great field this year. I have a lot of fun playing in these kind of events.

DAVE SENKO: Jason?

JASON DUFNER: Same.

No. Yeah, this is -- like Dustin says, this is a fun event for us. Greg and Franklin Templeton do a great job putting on this event, makes us very comfortable. Team events are always a lot of fun. Modified alternate shot is a little bit easier for us, scramble is a lot of fun, we don't ever get to play that. For me I use it to kind of kickstart my next season. I haven't been playing much golf the last four or five weeks. Last week I played but I hadn't really touched a club since China. So knocked some of the rust off, start getting ready for, you know, 2014.

DAVE SENKO: When did you guys know you were going to be playing together, when did that come together?

JASON DUFNER: I think probably right after China or so. I think we both were committed to playing, wanted to play and wanted to play together, so I think the tournament director and Greg kind of through us together. I think we've been on a Ryder Cup team and we've played a lot of matches out on TOUR on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, so we're kind of excited to get out there and compete tomorrow.

DAVE SENKO: Questions?

Q. How do you do on Tuesdays with your partner?

JASON DUFNER: I think we're undefeated, aren't we?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, we haven't lost yet.

JASON DUFNER: Keegan Bradley, he's the ultimate Tuesday loser, so we beat up

on him pretty good.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Every time. That's funny. Duf picks on him so much he can't hardly pull it back, he gets that Texas two-step going really good.

Q. Can you describe what life has been like since winning the major?

JASON DUFNER: It's been pretty good. Get a lot of more attention obviously at the events that I've played. Off the golf course get a little bit more attention, but everything at home's been pretty normal. I've had some time here the last month and a half or so, like I said, to kind of get away from golf a little bit, think about other things in my life, be at home some, so it's been good.

Q. Has it also given you a chance maybe to reflect a little bit on that weekend?

JASON DUFNER: A little bit. A lot of people ask me that question. I'm not sure about what "reflecting" means. When you live what you're doing, especially with golfers you try to stay in the moment so often. Obviously I'm proud of what I did, proud of how hard I worked to get there. But in my mind, and I think Dustin would say the same thing, you're always thinking about tournaments that you can win, you're always seeing yourself winning majors and tournaments, so it wasn't surprising or that I needed to think about what had happened. I think when you win and you're in the moment, you become comfortable with it. I don't want to say you expect it, but you see yourself doing it. Reflecting on it hasn't really been too much my way of thinking, I've just been trying to use it as a motivation to try and win some more events.

Q. Can you elaborate a little bit on that, Dustin?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Obviously you think about winning or whatever every once in a while, but you don't like sit there and think about, you know, everything about it. It's more of you know you've won it, but with golf you don't want to live in the past. That's already gone by. You know, we've got this tournament to prepare for and however many others we're going to play. Worrying about that one that you won, it's not going to help you win this one. Yeah, you can, you know, obviously some of the situations you were in and the shots you hit, you know, you can draw back on that to help you in a situation that you might be in in your next event, but other than that we try to just almost live in the present. You've got to, you know. It's always you're worried about the next shot you're hitting, not the shot you hit last week or six months ago.

Q. Dustin, do you feel like maybe you've in a way turned the corner with your career after what you did in China and the year you had in general?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I mean, for me obviously I won the first event and then I had a few good finishes here or there, but I thought this year was a bit frustrating for me.

Obviously getting the big win in China was definitely -- gives me a lot more momentum, a lot more confidence. It's going to push me to work a lot harder this next year to contend in more tournaments and get some more wins.

Q. Dustin, I know you spent some time back home when you were over in Palm Beach at Medalist and Freddy Jacobson was telling me today that Medalist and Greg have kind of patched up their differences and you see him around there more often. Can you just address what he's meant to Medalist and what he's meant to Hobe Sound, that whole area?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I love Medalist. It's a great golf course, it's a fun place to go hang out, they have great members. I think Greg did a great job up there. I know they had some differences here in the past, but I haven't been home, I really haven't been home in the last, you know, six months, other than a week here or a week there. Usually when I'm at home, for the last six months I've been home in two weeks, I'm not playing golf so I haven't been to the golf course. That is good to hear, though, that they have kind of patched things up.

Q. What's it like playing just in such a loose atmosphere like this? You guys aren't in season at all. You get to talk to guys like Greg Norman, some guys you probably idolized growing up. What's it like to kind of talk to them on a loose basis here and not having so much pressure on you guys?

JASON DUFNER: I think it's nice. From a playing perspective you kind of get to see where your game is at, you can challenge yourself a little bit. You touched on Greg Norman playing in the event. I didn't really play golf during the time period where he was extremely competitive out here and on the TOUR full time, so I actually got to play with him a couple years ago in the final round, so that was pretty neat. I kind of grew up watching Greg play and have great performances in the major championships and win tournaments out here and on TOUR, so it was neat to kind of see somebody that I kind of idolized and watched growing up, actually to get a chance to play with him.

Like you said, this event's very loose for us. I think the competition factor probably comes in the back nine on Sunday, especially in that scramble format because anything can happen with that, but I think it's a great week. You've got a great golf course, great field, and like I said, Greg and Franklin Templeton put on such a great event, it's a lot of fun for us.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: For me, especially playing with Jason, we're going to have fun out there. It's nice, too, having a partner where if you hit a bad shot you really don't have to worry about it too much. You can just, you know, your turn to play, so that's nice. It's just really relaxing. It's a lot of fun to play. You've got a whole mix of players, Americans, Europeans, older guys, younger guys, so it's a good mix and it's a great field and it's -- I've known Greg for a little while now, he lives in the same area

as me and I've played here for a few years, so it's nice to talk to him and get his opinion on some things.

Q. Jason, going back to that major and stuff, but was there a shot in that tournament that you would consider like a dream shot or a shot that led you to believe that you were going to win that event?

JASON DUFNER: For me, I never really think I'm going to win an event until it's over with. You never know what happens. There's been times in the past where I thought I had this locked up and it didn't work out. But I think the shot that stands out the most to me is the shot I hit on 16 because Jim was in there with a reasonable birdie chance with a chance to cut the lead in half by one shot. At Oak Hill the last two holes, who knows what could happen. He played first and hit it about 10 feet and I hit a wedge in there about a foot. So that shot stands out the most to me because it kind of answered anything that maybe he had left to throw at me and gave me a lot of confidence with a two-shot lead on those last two holes.

Q. How about you, Dustin? Do you have a dream shot or a shot that really stuck out in your career to this point?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, I mean, just in China it would be on the 16th hole again, the shot I pitched in. I hit a great tee ball right where I wanted to, I knew that would give me the best chance to get it close to the hole, and I mean that shot just pitched in. I told my brother right before I hit it, I said I think I'm going to make this one, I made it. I think I was -- I had a one-shot lead and, you know, had two holes left where 17's a tough par 3 and 18's a par 5 where it was into the wind so nobody was really going to reach it on Sunday. Anything can happen, like he was saying. So to pitch that in there to get a two-shot lead, probably one of the best shots I hit all week was on 17, the par 3, where I hit 5 iron in there to about six feet. It was back right flag and off the left, I just I had hit it perfect and I knew right when I hit it it was going to be stiff.

Q. Jason, how many hours do you spend analyzing Florida State film?

JASON DUFNER: I haven't had time to get on the film of Florida State yet, I've been traveling, but when I get back to Auburn I'll be cutting that tape and dissecting their tendencies and weaknesses and give the coaches a good report.

No, no. I don't know, it's going to be a good football game I hope. You've got two really good teams. Nothing against Ohio State, but the teams, like a high percentage of them felt like they had no chance if they played Florida State and I think we'll give them a good game.

Q. Dustin, last week when you spent the week at your future in-laws house, how did that go?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: It went great. I was actually out there for three weeks. I had a great time. The Gretzkys, they couldn't be a nicer family, get along with all of them really well. I play golf with Wayne all the time. Over Thanksgiving, me and Trevor and Ty and Tristan, which are the three brothers, the three youngest sons, we played golf pretty much every day. Got a great relationship with all of them.

JASON DUFNER: Is your father-in-law a lot easier to like when his name's Wayne Gretzky?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Of course.

Q. What did you say?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I said of course. I would like him no matter who he is. He's a great dude, especially for who he is and being the best hockey player that's ever played the game, he just couldn't be a nicer guy.

Q. And where were you for the Auburn-Alabama game?

JASON DUFNER: We were at the game, my wife and I.

Q. So what's going through your mind as you're watching that play?

JASON DUFNER: Pretty amazing obviously for this season and I then I think it will be a game that a lot of people will remember for a long time. But being from the state of Alabama and going to school there, it's really special that we were on that side of it. But at that moment I had to watch myself because my wife went to school at Alabama, so she wasn't too happy and I had to curb my excitement and enthusiasm a little bit in order to be in her good graces.

Q. There was one question I would like to ask. You mentioned you enjoy playing this tournament this week. I hate to give my age away but there used to be a team event on the PGA TOUR. Would you guys -- how would you guys react to a suggestion to bring one back, which obviously wouldn't be a scramble, but would you like a team event on TOUR?

JASON DUFNER: What's the purse size going to be?

Q. I don't know.

JASON DUFNER: Is there a cut? I think it will be something the guys are open to. I think a lot of guys talk about wanting to play some team events. I know there's a good bit of team events that go on like I said on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I think the guys on TOUR would be open to it. I think they would be excited for it. It would

be something that you can maybe use for team matches, Presidents Cup, Ryder Cup. For us I think it would be good experience. Sometimes you get guys that you gel with and play well.

Would you get world ranking points for it, too? You're very vague on this tournament. I think guys would be open to it.

Q. Have you done any Dufnering?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, did you see the picture? Me and Keegan and I think Snedeker, that was at Houston, so that was --

Q. Have you reflected on that at all?

JASON DUFNER: No, nothing to reflect on there. Obviously it's been crazy with that, especially when it happened, but I still get a good bit of Twitter feedback on it. Even fans, they still are going strong with it now eight months later.

Q. A lot of people have been shown Dufnering. Has Amanda ever Dufnered?

JASON DUFNER: No, no, no. No, she thinks it's silly. She doesn't get the whole thing of it. She sees me doing it all the time, so...

DAVE SENKO: With that, we're out of questions. Thank you.