

TRANSCRIPT: Presentation of POY & ROY Awards
Wednesday, January 22, 2014

MARK STEVENS: Thank you for being here. We're going to go ahead and get started. I would like to introduce PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem, who has two presentations to make.

COMMISSIONER FINCHEM: Thank you. We have two of our favorite awards to present, and the reason they're favorite awards is because these are the two awards that the players vote on every year.

First is the Rookie of the Year award followed by the Jack Nicklaus Trophy for Player of the Year.

Let me start with Jordan Spieth. Jordan had an incredible year for any player, let alone a rookie. It's hard to believe that he literally started the year with no status last year and at the end of the year played in the TOUR Championship presented by Coca-Cola and was selected and played beautifully for the American team in the Presidents Cup.

Just a quick recap of this year, in 23 starts Jordan had nine Top 10 finishes, which tied for the lead of everybody on the TOUR. Along the way, at John Deere he became the youngest player since Ralph Guldahl in 1931 to win a PGA TOUR event. He had three runner-up finishes and he's already added another this season at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

In addition to these competitive achievements, he carried himself as you would like to see any TOUR player carry himself and has done that since he was a teenager playing in Dallas.

It's my pleasure to present you, Jordan, with the Rookie of the Year award selected by your peers. Jordan Spieth.

JORDAN SPIETH: Commissioner, those were very nice remarks. It's a tremendous honor to be here. This was a goal of mine from when I was real young and I'm very honored to be voted by my peers for this award. Now it's time to chase the other award. It's great to have this and we're off to a new season and happy to be back where it all started this week.

COMMISSIONER FINCHEM: Tiger Woods. Tiger Woods is going to receive the Jack Nicklaus Award for an incredible 11th time. He had an exceptional year of winning five times and all five of his wins came against strong fields on great golf courses. He won at the PLAYERS, he won two World Golf Championships, he won the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill, and he won for the eighth time here at

Torrey Pines at the Farmers Insurance Open. It was the 10th time in his career that Tiger has had five or more victories in a single season. Additionally, he won the Arnold Palmer Award as the TOUR's leading money winner for the 10th time.

Since we have him here, I would like to comment beyond last year a little bit on his career. His all-time victory record is 79, total is 79, just three short of Sam Snead's record of 82. As we sat here a year ago, he was eight away from Sam's record and now he's just three back. His 14 major championships are second only to Jack Nicklaus. He has earned an incredible \$109 million in official prize money during his career.

But I think that Tiger's impact will be felt for things that have little to do with the statistics of his incredible playing career competitively and I would like to comment just briefly on that.

Over the last 20 years, every year I meet with rookies and talk to them about what their objectives are, what their goals are. In the last five years as I've done that, the two things that have jumped out at me from what rookies talk about, when I ask them who their favorite player was, invariably it's Tiger Woods. These are players in the last five, six, seven years, started down their road to the PGA TOUR when they were five, six, seven, eight years old. Then they talk about the physicality and athleticism of the sport and how they focus on their bodies, and in the last two years I've had rookies ask me, as rookies, Mr. Finchem, do you think I should start my own foundation now as a rookie? Should I wait a year or should I get going right now because I want to be part of all this charity activity on the PGA TOUR.

Tiger's dedication to not just his physicality and athleticism but also being prepared to rebuild his game several times during his career I think has changed the approach of younger players to the game and will have a long-time impact on the TOUR as it becomes more athletic.

In addition, his early commitment to the Tiger Woods Foundation has helped continue and grow the culture of charitable giving on the PGA TOUR and really highlighted what an individual player can do as he has raised millions to help kids, help kids get to college and help kids through his centers in Southern Cal and Washington, D.C.

So as a true professional and contributor to the PGA TOUR, I'm delighted that the players selected him Player of the Year and I'll ask him to come up to receive this year's Player of the Year Jack Nicklaus Trophy. Tiger, congratulations.

TIGER WOODS: Thank you, Tim.

First off, I want to say last year was a tremendous year for us as players. We were able to watch Jordan do what he did, have absolutely zero status, come out here, earn his way through into the FedEx Cup playoffs, into the TOUR Championship, onto

the Presidents Cup team, win a tournament on our TOUR is just quite remarkable and congratulations to you, Jordan. It's going to be fun for a number of years battling it out. I'm going to enjoy it.

As far as for me, last year was something I'm very proud of. To have won five times on one venue that I really struggled on, the PLAYERS Championship, and to be able to do it there was a lot of fun. I've had a lot of success here at Torrey Pines and this is actually the first golf course that I ever went to to watch professionals play. My dad took me down here back when it was the old Andy Williams and we went out and watched SoCal golfers. That was a bunch of fun and that basically started my fascination with the TOUR and here I am to be able to play on the TOUR, be part of it, be part of the growth, be part of the charitable giving the TOUR's been involved in. We've been aligned for a number of yours now, Tim and I and the foundation and The First Tee and what we're trying to do for kids, and it's fantastic to see the dollars we've been able to generate, but also as individuals such as myself and others who participate in the fundraising side of things and trying to help whatever their specific goals are. But overall again, as I said, last year was a fantastic year and something I'm very proud of. Thank you.

MARK STEVENS: Thank you, Tiger. We're going to do quick photo ops and Jordan will be available outside for a quick scrum and Tiger will go into his press conference.