



## DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP MEDIA DAY August 1, 2016

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**MIKE ANTOLINI:** Good morning. Welcome to 2016 Deutsche Bank Championship Media Day. My name is Mike Antolini and I'm the tournament director and vice president of championships for the Tiger Woods Foundation. Thank you all for joining us today at TPC Boston. We have a beautiful day here, where in just 29 days the PGA Tour's top 100 will be welcomed to the tournament.

I want to thank the membership here and general manager, Dan Waslewski, and his wonderful team for not only welcoming us today during the DBC, but really throughout the entire year. Many of you will be lucky enough to play the course today and you'll see the course superintendent, Tom Brodeur, and his team have done another masterful job in preparing the course for the world's top players.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Deutsche Bank, our local presenting partner EMC, and our founding partners Gulf Oil, Wall Street Journal, CBS Radio and CDW for their continued support of the tournament.

I want to thank the towns of Norton and Mansfield for their leadership in the community in support of the tournament. I know we have town manager, Michael Yunits, here of Norton, and it's always great to see you, Michael, thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge Tiger Woods Foundation president and CEO, Rick Singer, who's here with us today. Because of the Deutsche Bank, we've been able to welcome 15 local area students into our Earl Woods Scholarship program, providing them with the critical support through educational assistance to help unlock their full potential. Thank you for coming, Rick.

I want to take a minute and thank all of our 1,400 volunteers of the Deutsche Bank affectionately referred to as the Blue Crew. Without our volunteers and our volunteer leaders, some of who are present today, the tournament simply would not be possible. Here representing the Blue Crew are our 2016 honorary Blue Crew ambassadors, Artis Street and Gunnar Nordahl. Artis and Gunnar, if you could stand and let's recognize Artis and Gunnar.

(Applause.)

**MIKE ANTOLINI:** More than 25 years of service combined for the tournament through Artis

and Gunnar. Thank you so much. And if you haven't already visited TourChallenge.com and voted for a DBC volunteer or the tournament through the PGA's volunteer challenge, I implore you to do so today and you've got two good votes right there in Artis and Gunnar, so thank you so much.

Lots of thank yous, I know, but this tournament means so much to many great people, so we appreciate that. And at the top of the list is really Deutsche Bank. Fourteen years ago a Labor Day tradition was started here at TPC Boston and Deutsche Bank's passion has been at the core of this tournament since it began. We're proud to call them a partner, and here on behalf of Deutsche Bank, please welcome Deutsche Bank America's CEO, Bill Woodley.

**BILL WOODLEY:** Thank you, Mike. Welcome, everybody. It's great to be back at TPC Boston and I'm particularly glad that our champion, Rickie Fowler, managed to make it up with not inconsiderable effort.

Rickie, thank you so much for making the effort after the weather experience down south this past weekend.

As Mike said, when Deutsche Bank launched the championship in 2003, we aimed to create a Labor Day weekend that was really very special for everybody, one that our clients and the New England sports fans could enjoy with all of their families. We're so proud that the championship has achieved that and so much more. With the top 100 golfers in the world attending each year in this Playoff event, the level of competition is always fantastic. And the championship, of course, has such a positive impact off the course as well. Giving back to the local community, the championship has raised awareness of important causes and supported organizations like the Tiger Woods Foundation, like the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Red Sox Foundation and local YMCAs.

Through programs like The First Tee of Massachusetts and the championship's own Junior Cup, it's encouraged young people to get into this great game.

And the championship also supports military veterans in the Boston area by supporting Recruit Military Career Fair during the DBC. This will be great to get some coverage on what is an inspiring event at Gillette Stadium that connects veterans with employees. Sorry, veterans with employers who are looking for their unique skills.

So this area's enthusiasm for the championship has helped the tournament grow into a truly extraordinary event, and of all of our wonderful partners, I would like to especially thank Billy Scannell and the team at EMC, the Tiger Woods Foundation, Mike Antolini and his team, all of you, the team at TPC Boston, and of course our championship volunteers.

So I hope you will have a great day on the course and I look forward to seeing you back here in September. Mike, back to you.

**MIKE ANTOLINI:** Thank you, Bill.

This year's tournament is shaping up to be another fantastic Labor Day weekend for the fans of New England. While the play inside the ropes is, of course, always of top notch, we are rededicating our emphasis to the experience outside the ropes to the fans, and one of the biggest enhancements that fans will notice this year is our emphasis to celebrate the best of New England on and around the Deutsche Bank. We are the destination or New Englanders over Labor Day weekend and we welcome the entire region to join us.

Tickets to the tournament of course are available at [DBChampionship.com](http://DBChampionship.com). Many venues are selling out very fast so I encourage all of you to visit our website and act today.

We're planning some new food and drink options this year. We're going to have food trucks on the front nine, the back nine barbecue on the 16th green, which we are looking forward to, and we're rededicating the area behind 18 known as The Common, which features the Michelob Ultra 19th hole concessions. We're going to have some lawn games out there, Jumbotron, some shade, which will certainly be a relaxing area.

We're also going to have a little fun in just a minute with some of our Best of New England icons on the range with Rickie here after a Q & A session.

One of our offerings this year that we're very excited about is the Vivid Seats Signature Club on the 16th tee. It overlooks the par 3 signature 16th and it's an all-inclusive option. For the first time in years, we are offering an all-inclusive option on our website for the fans to take advantage of.

Of course, we're proud, as Bill mentioned, to again offer complimentary admission to all active duty military and their families. We have the Patriots Military Outpost on the 17th tee, and we're also an event for all ages, families of all ages. Our youth admission policy, kids 15 and under will receive complimentary admission with a ticketed adult. We have a Best in Class Kids Village here on the PGA Tour and that is always a busy, busy area.

Again, all ticket information available at [DBChampionship.com](http://DBChampionship.com) and follow us on social at [DBChampionship](http://DBChampionship). Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, the trifecta.

This year's field will be one of the best ever. I'm very happy to share some early commitments from World No. 1, Jason Day; U.S. Open champion and World No. 2, Dustin Johnson; defending FedEx Champ and World No. 3, Jordan Spieth; 2012 DBC winner and World No. 4, Rory McIlroy; The Open champion and 2013 DBC champ, Henrik Stenson; two-time Masters winner and World No. 6, Bubba Watson; yesterday's PGA champ, Jimmy Walker; last year's Open champion, Zach Johnson; our first Deutsche Bank winner and World No. 8, Adam Scott. Back in 2003 he won this, his first PGA Tour win setting off really a masterful career. World No. 11 and 2013 U.S. Open champion, Justin Rose.

Past DBC champs Phil Mickelson, Charley Hoffman, Vijay Singh, Chris Kirk, Webb Simpson, they're all expected to join us as will 2010 Open champion Louis Oosthuizen; recent

Quicken Loans National champion, Billy Hurley III; former FedEx Cup champion, Billy Horschel, young guns Justin Thomas and Daniel Berger. Matt Kuchar, Brooks Koepka, Graeme McDowell, the list goes on and on.

This will be arguably the best field ever here at the Deutsche Bank Labor Day weekend 2016. We're excited, of course, to welcome back our defending champ as well. He's here with us today, as Bill Woodley mentioned, after an eventful weekend at Baltusrol. I'd like to now bring him up to the chairs here for a Q & A session. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the 2015 Deutsche Bank winner, World No. 7 and soon-to-be Olympian, Rickie Fowler.

(Applause.)

**Q. Rickie, thanks for joining us, first and foremost. Pretty eventful weekend at Baltusrol?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, (inaudible) Saturday get out there and hit (inaudible) on the first green and did that for six or seven hours on the golf course. Once that happened, I didn't think we were going to be able to get it in yesterday, so somehow everything kind of broke up. The weather was worse on Sunday than Saturday (inaudible) so I'm here.

**MIKE ANTOLINI:** Here we are. So what does it feel like to be back here, site of obviously your win, battled it out with Henrik Stenson on the back nine. Take us back to that time, to that round and really what it meant for you.

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, well, it basically became kind of a two-man race. I remember making the turn and getting to 11. Henrik kind of lost one out right and I hit a good shot in there. I was able to make two and he made four. It was a two-shot swing and at that point we had kind of distanced ourselves a bit and I thought if him and I could get out front, it would just be match play between the two of us. Came down to the last few holes and he ends up kind of having a little bit of a miscue on 16 hitting one in the water and I snuck out front and luckily held on.

It was a pretty amazing week here last year just because I hadn't had a very good finish here before. I've put together some decent rounds. I had never put together a solid tournament. So to play the way I did, I played very solid through the week, I had to stay pretty patient in the final round. Nothing was really going my way and finally made some birdies coming in. But to go from not playing maybe the best that I've had here and having any decent finishes to getting the win last year was very special.

**MIKE ANTOLINI:** Talk about the FedExCup and the Playoffs. Obviously very compacted season this year because of the Olympics, because of the Ryder Cup, majors are compacted. I know the next few months will be very busy for you. How are you preparing yourself as you mark your title defense here?

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Well, like you said, heading down to Rio here in a couple days. It's going to be a longer trip than normal, going to be down there for 11 days. Looking forward to going down for opening ceremonies and then from there it's really just looking forward to the Playoffs and playing well through there. Still obviously trying to make the Ryder Cup team, so it's, like you talked about, a very condensed summer leading up till now and it doesn't really open up anymore from here. Still full go for a couple more months.

**Q. Rickie, a couple weeks ago Bubba Watson said he's playing the Travelers and going to Rio right after that event. He's just going to play a couple practice rounds and then head out right after the tournament. So are you going to go down there and practice for about a week, go to the opening ceremonies, and then are you leaving right after the Olympic golf is over?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** So yeah, I'm the only player going down early enough for the opening ceremonies. Going to spend some time getting some work in at the training facility. My trainer's going down with me. Obviously going to spend some time practicing as well, but looking forward to actually seeing some events during the first few days, and then starting Monday or Tuesday take it more like a normal tournament. That's when those guys will be coming in. I believe they're getting in Monday morning. Once that time comes, we'll spend more time just based on the golf and getting ready for Thursday to Sunday, and then the plan is we're all flying back together after the golf's done.

**Q. A number of your compadres on the Tour are skipping the Olympics because of different concerns. Was that ever a consideration for you?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** It was definitely a consideration. Definitely had to do my homework and respect all the decisions that were made whether to go or not to go. It was something I definitely wanted to be a part of, I didn't want to miss out on, but I also didn't want to put myself at too high of a risk. That's why I said I looked into everything and got as much information as possible to make sure that I was making a comfortable decision for myself.

**Q. What is it that you like about this course and what don't you like?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Well, like I talked about a couple minutes ago, I hadn't had a good tournament here until last year, so I finally started to like this place more. (Laughs.)

No, I never could figure it out. These guys were shooting low scores. I would go out and shoot a few under and I felt pretty good about it and I was losing ground. It was hard. I like the look of this golf course, it's always in great shape. I was walking past the putting green on the way up here and it looks like you guys are going to have some perfect greens to putt on.

No, there's nothing really bad to say about it other than the fact that I hadn't played well up until last year. So we've got that out of the way and I love this place now.

**Q. I know you have a little work to do to get on that Ryder Cup team, but you've been a member of a couple of teams in the past. Can you just talk about the difference in maybe the preparation this time around, the behind-the-scenes stuff? We know that the U.S. has kind of taken a new approach and if you could just kind of shed some light on that approach?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Well, this summer's definitely been different than before, especially with how packed the majors were and then with a few of us that are going down to Rio and then right into the Playoffs.

I took a little bit more time off through the first part of the season to kind of prepare for the busy summer that was ahead. Right now, I mean, unfortunately I haven't played as well as I would have liked to the past few months, which has kind of put me in a tough position where I'm kind of trying to keep progressing and getting the swing back where I want it, which I felt like I was in a really good spot this past weekend. Didn't have the Sunday I wanted being that I played 35 holes yesterday.

Basically, between The Open and there, I put myself in good positions after the first two days and then didn't have the weekend, but it's close. It's tough when things aren't clicking and playing great golf, and you see Jimmy Walker, who ends up winning yesterday, he's been, I wouldn't say struggling. It's hard to say a PGA Tour player's struggling; they're still the best players in the world. He wasn't playing his best golf and there's a lot of work that goes in behind the scenes and all the guys do it. It's hard to outwork all the other guys out there, but I know I've been putting the time in, I'm trying to get it turned around because I want to be on that Ryder Cup team.

**Q. I was wondering if pro golfers are as superstitious as us amateurs. Will Jimmy Walker be shaving his beard anytime soon?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I think he'll let it ride for a little bit. I think professional golfers, I would say there's a wide variety. I think there's some that are a lot more superstitious and then I feel like I'm a little more just routine oriented. But I know there's some out there that are very superstitious just like any other athletes as well.

**Q. You said you were kind of on the shelf a little bit during the weather delay on Saturday. I'm just curious, what do you do for seven hours when you're waiting to maybe go back out on the course?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** There was some -- they had some food in there. I made Zach Johnson a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich at one point. We hung out in the locker room, a few of the guys from Zach to Sneds, Jordan, just kind of different areas. Obviously player dining becomes pretty packed with families and other players.

There's not a whole lot you can do just because I know one time they came in and said we're going to come in with an announcement in 40 minutes and there was no

announcement. But it was pretty obvious; since it was still storming outside, they didn't have to make one. We were really just waiting for any kind of opening to come up and they would give us a heads-up to go hit balls and go play. Unfortunately, that never happened. So they made the call, I think it might have been around 5:30 or so, I don't remember the exact time, but it was just a day filled with hanging with the boys in the locker room.

**Q. Rickie, had you not won last year, what would Mike have had to do to get you to come back? And Mike, did you look to your defending champion to use his brotherhood to draw any of the players in that you might not have gotten before?**

**MIKE ANTOLINI:** Well, first off, Rickie, thanks for coming. It's not an automatic, by any stretch of the word, that a defending champ comes to media day. I need to check it out, guys, because this may be the first time in the 14-year history that we have had a defending champ here for media day.

**Q. Thank you. So I meant Mike, Rickie, if you had not won last year, not for media day but coming back to the tournament, would Mike have had to work some magic to get you to come back since you were struggling in the past?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, he'd have to work some pretty good magic. He's capable, though.

**MIKE ANTOLINI:** Thanks, Rickie.

**Q. First of all, thanks for going to the Olympics. Secondly, I saw you at the 18th hole when it was finishing yesterday. Why were you there and who were you looking to talk to?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Well, Jason and Jimmy are two good buddies of mine, and obviously with Jimmy being out front, I don't want to see guys make mistakes. It's great seeing guys hit quality golf shots and catch the other play. So seeing Jase make eagle at the last hole was really cool.

Like I said, I didn't want to see anyone mess up, so I wanted to see Jimmy, one of my best friends, get the win and his first major. Like I said, not pulling against Jason, another good buddy of mine. I just want to see all those guys play well and they did.

Jimmy and I, he's definitely one of my closest buddies on Tour. We've spent a lot of time together the past few years, especially more so since both of us work with Butch, being Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup partners and playing matches with each other. We play countless practice rounds together.

Prior to Match Play, I flew out and went and stayed with Jimmy and his family for a few days, then we drove over to Austin. We spend a lot of time together and it's been a tough stretch since he rattled off those five wins. I think that was around -- was that kind of '14/'15

seasons? We talk about kind of the behind-the-scenes work to see what he's been kind of putting into it and not getting a whole lot out. He's one of the best putters when he gets hot, for sure. Putts haven't been going in and I can definitely relate on that. But to see what he's been doing, to be there and have the opportunity to be there on 18 to see him finish it off was pretty cool.

**MIKE ANTOLINI:** Rickie, want to hit some balls?

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Sure.

(Best of New England Target Challenge.)

(Media Q&A)

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Some of the guys that were possibly going to go before wanted to go, and then I always wanted to have that opportunity, especially with the way the schedule worked. So now it's -- I'll be the only golfer, but it will be pretty cool.

**Q. Is the Olympics something that was on your bucket list?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Well, it's kind of hard to say bucket list since golf hasn't been in there for over a hundred years. I've always grown up watching the Olympics and thought about how cool it would be to walk in opening ceremonies, to compete as an athlete, which I didn't have a chance at doing any of that. I wasn't going to run fast enough, I wasn't going to jump high enough or anything like that. So thankfully, I got the opportunity through golf.

No, I mean, when you look at all the sports that are involved in the Olympics, I mean, from the track and field to rowing, just all the sports, it's the pinnacle of their four years really. I mean, it only happens every so often and pretty cool to see some of the stories of what's happened at the Olympics or getting to the Olympics. You know, looking forward to not just the opening ceremonies but getting to see some of the other athletes that are down there and kind of seeing kind of I guess greatness happen in front of me.

**Q. What's more important, a gold medal or a major championship?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Major.

**Q. No question?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** No.

**Q. Do you feel any extra pressure being one of those best golfers not to have a major yet?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** No. Pretty cool to be in that group. Definitely some great golfers that



have not won a major. To be talked about with them, pretty cool. I mean, I've had my chances. I've played well in majors and definitely want to continue to do that. Need to get back to where I was and how I played in the majors in 2014. We'll knock one off at some point here.

**Q. What was the one thing that turned you toward the Olympics? You said you looked at a lot of different things. What was the one thing that made you decide to go?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Wasn't really one thing in particular. I made sure we looked at all the health and security issues and made sure we had the logistics down there taken care of and felt safe with everything once we hit the ground running in Rio. So I always looked forward to having the opportunity to go down there. Obviously I had to make sure I qualified for the team, and outside of that, like I said, just did our homework and cleared everything to make sure I was safe with the decision.

**Q. You've won here where Gil Hanse redesigned this course. He designed the Olympic course. What do you think of his work and what do you think of your chances there?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I think Gil's done a great job of becoming one of the most well-known golf course architects with the redesign of a million courses. I haven't seen much of the course down there other than a few kind of overview pictures of the land and what the course looks like. I've heard good things, it has a good look to it. I'm looking forward to getting down there. Yeah, finally figured how to play this one so hopefully that bodes well for Rio.

**Q. Rickie, last year was a breakout year for you, you won THE PLAYERS and then you won here, so I imagine your expectations for this year were quite high. You have a lot of top 10s but no wins. How would you assess your year thus far?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** It hasn't been great. I started my year off well, I won in Abu Dhabi on the European Tour. It was nice to do that and get a win against a good, really strong field over there. Falling short in the playoff in Phoenix, it would have been nice to get the win there. Then it's been a little slow the last couple months. Just golf's hard. If it was easy, then everyone would be out here playing and I wouldn't have a job. So it's just kind of fighting through it and continuing to put the work in and it will turn back around here soon.

**Q. How do you feel going back to a place where you've had success here?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, definitely. Finally had success last year. I've struggled to put solid weeks together prior to last year. And it's a golf course I like, I just never really understood how the guys played so well on it. Then finally figured it out a little bit last year. So yeah, I'm definitely looking forward to getting back here. It's always a fun crowd to play in front of. Usually we get good weather here and hopefully that's the case this year. It will

be nice being back as defending champion.

**Q. Do you have a favorite hole out here?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** No, not really. I can't even think. Well, I like 11 because I made a good 2 there last year, so good memories.

**Q. Your social media presence with Smylie and Justin, how much do you enjoy that, showing another side of you that's not just on the golf course?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** We have a good time with it because, like you said, showing what's not on the golf course. Everyone knows what I do for a living and they understand that I play golf, so sometimes I catch a little bit of flak for not always posting golf. Well, you know I play golf, so I like to show what's going on off the golf course. We're normal, we're just having fun. We may goof around practicing and having fun on the golf course, but away, you know, what we might be doing at the house we have rented for the week, like last week at the PGA.

Yeah, social media's definitely given us an avenue that we can kind of reach fans on a closer basis and I think makes them feel like they're a little closer to us, as long as you control the content correctly. I know there's obviously been some social media things gone wrong, but it's fun, we enjoy it and it's definitely nice including the fans a little bit more.

**Q. What made you decide to come here today?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Well, I mean, this was a big win for me. It was nice to get my first win in the Playoffs. Very meaningful win. Like I talked about, I hadn't played well at this event prior to last year.

And then the Tiger Woods Foundation, everyone that runs the tournament, they do a great job obviously with here, down at Quicken Loans National and I think they're taking over L.A.

But I talked about the fans, I mean, this is a fun event. Last year was the first time I stayed up in Boston through the tournament. A lot of times I stay down in Providence. I guess I'm going to try out Boston again this year.

So no, it's an all-around great event from talk about the amount of volunteers involved; not just this event, but if it weren't for volunteers, it wouldn't be possible. But yeah, coming from everyone who's involved with the tournament, running the tournament, and luckily we happened to be somewhat close so it made it a little easier, too.