



**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW:
TIGER WOODS, ANIRBAN LAHIRI, PAWAN MUNJAL**

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

JOHN BUSH: I would like to welcome everyone to the 2015 Hero World Challenge. We're joined today with three special guests. I'll introduce, first of all, the chairman, managing director and CEO of Hero MotoCorp, Mr. Munjal. We have our tournament host, Mr. Tiger Woods, and playing in the Challenge for the first time, Anirban Lahiri.

First of all, we'll get started with some opening comments from Mr. Munjal.

PAWAN MUNJAL: Thank you. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Let me also welcome you all to the Hero World Challenge 2015 here at the Albany in this beautiful Bahamas. I got here yesterday midday, landed exactly at 12:00 noon and drove straight to the golf course, played the back nine. To me it looks very tight and the greens look small, so I don't know what the pros think about the course but I had fun. I had played the front nine when I came here in May for a couple of hours. The course is beautiful and the weather thankfully is also holding on, looking very beautiful. It's a beautiful afternoon.

Thank you, Tiger, for hosting all of us. Thanks also to Tavistock, who have been involved with Tiger now for some time in hosting a similar event before this.

I remember last year Jordan had flown in halfway across the world from Australia after winning the Australian Open there and then he lifted the trophy in Orlando at Isleworth. I understand he's done the same this year, other than not winning in Australia, but he's flown in from Australia again. I met a few of the pros here this morning. Unfortunately, I only managed three holes before I was pulled back in for some media interactions.

It's a little different from last year. We were just the two of us sitting on the dais, me and Tiger. We have now, in addition to the two of us, Anirban Lahiri from India. For him, it's the first time playing the Hero World Challenge. I feel very proud to have an Indian pro as part of the top 18 pros playing the Hero World Challenge.

Welcome, Anirban.

ANIRBAN LAHIRI: Thank you, sir.

PAWAN MUNJAL: And have a good week.

Golf clearly in India has been growing at a very fast pace and we at Hero have a major hand in the development of golf in India. Not just in India, but Hero has been associated with various events across the globe now, and I do keep talking about Hero being a sponsor on five different tours concurrently.

We also had in October this year at the Hero Women's Indian Open, Tiger's niece, Cheyenne, played the event and she almost won the event. She just muffed the second shot on the 18th and that just took the tournament away from her.

Tournaments really are growing in India at a very good speed and the prize money is also growing every year. Hero clearly in its expansion plans, global expansion plans, is hugely focused on Latin America and Africa, and as I had said last year, we're adding new markets every year and we're looking forward to now adding Mexico, Argentina and Nigeria very soon into our global markets.

And we also have had the association with Tiger taken to these markets with the brand Hero and it's really doing great for us, the association is doing great for us.

So once again, ladies and gentlemen, have a great week here in the Bahamas, look forward to seeing you every day here at the course. Thank you.

JOHN BUSH: Tiger, I know you're disappointed to not be playing this week but just comment on what an excellent field we have and how important this tournament is to your Foundation, and I might add to be celebrating the 20th anniversary of this tournament next year.

TIGER WOODS: Yes, this is fantastic to have Hero and Pawan here, and Anirban, and to have this amazing facility here in Albany and Tavistock. It has been incredible over my years, my relationship with Tavistock, and to have this opportunity, to have it here at Albany is just fantastic. To have the field that we have, it's by far the best field we've ever had. To have Jordan and Adam both come from Australia to come play this event. I know they've had a busy offseason and playing. Adam's just basically coming here for the week and going right back home, so his commitment to this event and to this project here has been phenomenal.

So to have these types of relationships, these types of players coming here and supporting what we're trying to do for kids, not just domestically but eventually globally, it's absolutely fantastic.

Next year is our 20th anniversary of this event and also it's the 20th year of the Foundation as well, so we're looking forward to rolling a few more things out in the subsequent year. We're excited to have again such a great field, to have amazing sponsors at this amazing venue.

JOHN BUSH: Anirban, what a fantastic season you've had, just talk a little bit about capping it off with your first start ever here at the Challenge.

ANIRBAN LAHIRI: Yeah, it's been a very, very important year for me. It's been a great year, lots of firsts. Getting my card for next year in America, playing the Presidents Cup, top

five at Whistling Straits. So I've had a highlight-filled year. But just being here at such a great event amongst the best players in the world. I would like to thank Mr. Munjal and the Tiger Woods Foundation for having me because these are the kind of events and fields that you want to play against every week and I'm really excited. So I'm looking forward to a good week.

JOHN BUSH: We'll open it up to questions.

Q. Tiger, you've been on Tour for almost 20 years now. When you look back at yourself at 21 and now approaching 40, does it seem like an entirely different person, who you are now as to who you were then?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I have a lot less hair. (Laughs.) It's hard to believe I've been out here for 20 years, going to my 21st season. How fast it's gone by. To have had the amount of success I've had in such a short period of time, it's been really cool.

Q. Tiger, where are you in the rehab process now and what's the soonest you could imagine yourself playing competitive golf again?

TIGER WOODS: Therein lies the tough question and tough answer, because I have no answer for that, and neither does my surgeon or my physios. There is no timetable. So that's the hardest part, that's the hardest part for me is there's really nothing I can look forward to, nothing I can build towards. It's just taking it literally just day by day and week by week and time by time. It's different from any of the other the surgeries and procedures that I've had in the past, where, okay, you blow out your ACL, which I did, and I had ACL reconstruction, and, okay, you're back in nine months. That's the timetable. For nerves, there are really no timetables and therein lies the tricky part of it because you can come back earlier or you can come back later, it just depends on how the nerve heals and how it settles.

Q. Will you approach this any more conservatively than you did in 2014?

TIGER WOODS: Absolutely. This is my third one and it's on the same level, so I have to, I don't have any choice.

Q. Question for Mr. Munjal and then for Anirban. Mr. Munjal, you've known Tiger for a long time, since he used to come and play the Tavistock Cup many years ago, and then bringing him over to India and then sponsoring this tournament for two years. Has the whole journey gone according to the plan that you had visualized? Has it paid off the type of dividends that you wanted, and how do you see it growing in the future?

And the question for Anirban: A year ago when you were still trying to get a card onto the European Tour around the same time in 2014, a year later would you have visualized that you would be playing in a group along with the World No. 1 in what's

probably the most elite tournament in a limited field sense?

PAWAN MUNJAL: You put out two long questions. By the time you come back, I've forgotten the first question. (Laughs.) Frankly, I had no plan. There was no plan, but I always had this vision that one day I would bring Tiger to India and sometime in my career and Tiger's golfing career I would work with him in some form or the other. So in that it has worked out well. Because there was no plan, things have worked out the way they have worked out. I think they're working out beautifully well for me.

ANIRBAN LAHIRI: To answer your question, I think it was last year I remember meeting Tiger in February when he would come to India for a day and a number of things happened last year even before I went to Q-School in Europe. Obviously it was fantastic for me to get to meet him and know him. Also, one of his friends, who's also a dear friend of mine, Arjun, spoke to me a lot later in the year when he played a lot of golf with me out in Asia and he was the first person to say that you're one of the few guys whose game I think is ready for America.

And at that point in time it wasn't the easiest thing to go to Q-School, and with where I was in my career it wasn't viable for me to play Web.com, which is probably the best option if you want to play in America. That was my primary reason of going to Europe, the sense of frustration that was brewing, that I had outgrown playing on the Asian Tour to some extent, I wanted to push myself. And the fact that it would give me the opportunity to raise my world ranking, try to get into the 50 and thereafter try to get more events in America.

Did I think I would be here? Probably not, but it's obviously been there at the back of my mind, I've always believed that I can compete with the best players in the world. And it's nice to see how my game has progressed, how my belief has progressed and it's great to be here. Hopefully I can be a part of this great event many times in the future.

Q. Last time a lot of us saw you was in Greensboro where you had a good tournament, seemingly turned the corner with your game a little bit, had a lot of optimism. Three weeks later you're having surgery. What happened in those three weeks? And was the surgery, the fact that you needed to have it, a surprise to you?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, was it a surprise? Yeah. Because as I was alluding to, that week and subsequent weeks, I felt my hip was killing me and I didn't think it was coming from my back. I've had back pain and I've had that level feel uneasy before but I thought it was coming from my hip, and we worked out in the trailer each and every day and just tried to loosen up my hip. And okay, fine, we went out and played. But I didn't feel any back discomfort; it was more my hip. Come to find out it wasn't my hip, it was coming from my back, and hence the procedure.

Q. Was it the same exact location as the April '14 --

TIGER WOODS: Yep.

Q. And then you had another thing, it was like six weeks after that?

TIGER WOODS: Correct, on the same level, yeah.

Q. If I could just ask an unrelated follow-up. You obviously heard the news about Kobe. What was your reaction to him retiring, the way he did it and what he said?

TIGER WOODS: Well, dude, I mean, 20 years in the NBA is more than 20 years in most sports. At his position, I mean, he was a flyer. You only have so many jumps in the body, and on top of that, only so many landings. The last three years he's gone through some pretty tough injuries. But other than that, the last three years, I mean, this guy was as durable as durable gets, and on top of that he played both ends of the court. He played two Olympic teams, all the qualifiers. The guy played a lot of basketball. And five rings, I believe, maybe seven Finals or something like that. So, I mean, you add up all those games, it takes a toll on the body and eventually it just doesn't heal anymore. And that sport is so fast, so athletic and so quick, it's just tough. It's been tough to watch him go through the season he's had, and it's understandably so, he's been there for 20 years.

Q. A little bit less. Tiger, have you had three microdiscectomies?

TIGER WOODS: I've had three procedures in the same spot, yep.

Q. Rehab was brought up earlier. I'm a little confused. Have you even started rehab?

TIGER WOODS: No.

Q. What would you describe as your functionality?

TIGER WOODS: I walk.

Q. And?

TIGER WOODS: I walk and I walk some more.

Q. I'm a little lost on that one. I know you don't have a timetable, but would it surprise you if a year from now you had not played a tournament?

TIGER WOODS: You know, I've been asked this quite a bit lately and the answer is I don't know, only because I really don't, I really don't. That's what I was alluding to earlier with my knee surgery. Nine months prognosis, you come back. There is no timetable for this and that's been the hardest mindset adjustment is that I don't know. So where is the light at the end of the tunnel? I don't know, so that's been hard. But also I had to reset the clock each and every day and okay, here we go, this is a new day and this is taken for what it is. I listen to my surgeon, I listen to my physios, and we just take it day by day. Hopefully the

day-by-day adds up to something positive here soon.

Q. How do you feel?

TIGER WOODS: Depends when you ask me, what time of day that is. Exactly.

Q. Tiger, Davis just a couple weeks ago was very proud to announce you and Jim and Steve as the vice captains for the American team. Why was it important for you to be in that team room in some capacity?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I think I've been on enough teams, been a part of the team since '97 with Jim and with Phil, and I think that I certainly feel like I can help the team and I can certainly help Davis, but I can help all the guys that are going to be on the team in whatever capacity, whatever role I may serve. But to be picked as a vice captain by Davis is just really an honor because I was committed to this when we formed the task force and then we eventually had the Ryder Cup committee. And subsequently Davis has honored Tom, myself, Jim and Stricks with spots on the team to serve in the capacity as assistant captains, and that's a tremendous honor.

We worked our tails off to get this thing rolling in the right direction for not just this Cup but for the next subsequent 10 Cups. I think that we can do that. I think we have the blueprint, I think we have the right people in place, and I think we set up really well for Cups down the road that who's going to be involved in the Cups. So I think that our plan has sort of come to fruition, it's started to roll out, but eventually it's up to the players and up to us to try and hopefully help them in whatever capacity that is and win the Cup back.

Q. To follow up, I know you want to be a playing vice captain if you can, but if your back doesn't allow that, you said in what capacity that is, have you visualized what you would do as a vice captain in that team room and on that golf course for the guys?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, as I said, I've been on enough teams to understand what the roles of the assistant captains, what the captains' roles are and what your duties entail. I understand that part. That's from being on teams for 20 years, and serving as a player and advisors to some of the captains over the years on pairings, the things that we do behind the scenes that people don't know about and people who are outside our team room that don't really understand that, but certainly for me I've come to a wonderful understanding of what my role may entail.

Hopefully I'll be playing as well as being an assistant captain, but if that does not work out, then certainly I'll be an assistant captain, will help out the team in whatever capacity that I can and whatever role that Davis gives me and the rest of the assistants.

Q. So Tiger, what are you doing day to day, and is there any physical things you can do at all?

TIGER WOODS: I'm just walking, that's it.

Q. How do you pass the 18 hours awake?

TIGER WOODS: I am really good at playing video games, really good. I swear, that's basically how I pass a lot of my time.

Q. Tiger, if you never win another golf tournament again, will you be at peace with your career and everything you've already accomplished?

TIGER WOODS: I think pretty much everything beyond this has been -- will be gravy. I've passed Jack in all-time win list, just shy of Sam. I passed Sam basically a decade ago in major championships but I'm still shy of Jack's. So I've had a pretty good career for my 20s and 30s. For my 20 years out here I think I've achieved a lot, and if that's all it entails, then I've had a pretty good run. But I'm hoping that's not it. I'm hoping that I can get back out here and compete against these guys. I really do miss it. I miss being out here with the boys and mixing it up with them and see who can win the event. That's fun. But if that's not the case anymore, then I'll find other avenues, that being growing my foundation, what we're trying to do, golf course design or other projects I have going on right now that will certainly take up more of my time.

And then hopefully I can get well enough to start playing more soccer. I miss being able to play with the kids, I miss doing that. I'm able to go to a ton of games, but I just haven't been able to play with them anymore and I miss doing things like that. Tossing a ball around, I can do that. But I just can't bend over that well or I'm not athletic to be able to do those things. I would like to be able to get to that first. If I can get to that, then we can start talking about golf. But let me get to where I can pass the time and really be a part of my kids' life in the way that I want to be part of it physically, not just as a cheerleader.

Q. Tiger, go back to '14 when you came back. Were you being stubborn or were you really sure you were ready to play back then?

TIGER WOODS: Well, everything was healed up and ready to go. Could I have been stronger? Yeah, I could have been stronger, but everything was physically healed and so it was time to go, so I went. Didn't have a very good success rate after that, but you know, that's the way it goes.

Q. Do you play games online and do people --

TIGER WOODS: Yeah.

Q. And do people recognize your voice?

TIGER WOODS: No, no, no audio.

Q. You know, it's hard to be around a Tiger Woods Foundation event and not think about your dad.

TIGER WOODS: Yeah.

Q. So I think at the PLAYERS you said like the anniversary of his death, you even struggled to sleep. I know September 29th for me. What are the times of year or things that really make you think about him and sort of measure the time he's been gone?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I think that every time that May 3rd comes around. Then obviously everyone is partying on Cinco de Mayo is the day that I buried my dad, so that's always been a tough date after I had to bury him. When everyone's drinking and having a great time, it's tough for me to really come around to enjoying the day. And unfortunately that always rolls around right around the same time as the PLAYERS now with this May date. So I've had -- I was able to win a couple years ago but it still wasn't an easy week and I don't think it ever will be.

I miss my dad dearly. He was an integral part of my life and he's -- you know, mom and dad allowed me to be able to do things I've been able to do and achieve things I've been able to achieve, so I don't ever want to forget the things he's taught me over the years and that date as well, as this event. This event was our first big event back in '99 with the rollover into 2000, celebrate the millennial year. That was a big thing for us down in Phoenix, and here we are having this event here in the Bahamas. We've raised over \$25 million in this event alone, not to forget all the other events that we own and run but this event only. So to have something that we drew up on a piece of paper, my dad and I, and say how can we make something work, all of a sudden we had the best players in the world be able to support and play in this event and be able to help us help kids around our country. Eventually now we're going to roll out something here in the next year for around the world and that's special, and I don't want to ever forget the things he taught me.

Q. Is there a thing of his that you hold dear, a talisman whether it's May or this event that makes it feel good to have it near you?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, it's our logo, our slogan: Care and Share. If you care about something, you'll share it. We at the foundation, we care about kids and we care about their lives, and just because you're born in an impoverished area doesn't mean that you're condemned to a life of failure. We're trying to achieve something greater than that, and I think we have. With our STEM program, I think that a lot of these kids are now off to universities and places that they never thought they could go to, and to have over 130 award scholars, and we've had a hundred percent graduation rate, it's just phenomenal. And to all the mentors and all the people that have been associated with that program, we couldn't say thank you enough.

Q. Tiger, how much of golf do you get to watch? And have you seen Anirban in action other than the few holes that you played with him when you were in India last year? And what advice would you have for him as he embarks on his first full season on the PGA Tour?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I watched him at the PGA at Whistling Straits this year. He had a wonderful chance, played really well. He was doing everything well, just ran into a couple guys ahead of him that did everything well as well. So how many "wells" can I say in that?

But after getting to know him and watching him play, he has an inordinate amount of talent and it was just a matter of him committing to play over here. He went through the process, went through the European Tour, earned his way out here and now has his card. And with all that talent and with his work ethic, I mean, he could achieve a lot and I certainly expect him to do that going forward and it would be fun to watch.

Q. Any advice for him?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, just keep playing better, keep playing better because everyone else is trying to get better as well.

Q. Quickly, Tiger, when's the last time you physically struck a golf ball?

TIGER WOODS: Probably about two months ago.

Q. A couple weeks after Greensboro?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I hit a chip shot left-handed.

Q. How did it go?

TIGER WOODS: One hand, left hand, and that was it.

Q. Even though it's a small sample size this year, what was your happiest week on Tour this year and why? Or most enjoyable I should say.

TIGER WOODS: I really enjoyed what I did at Greensboro, that was fun because I was finally able to put the things that Chris and I have been trying to implement throughout the entire year. I had glimpses of it but never really put it all together. I finally did and it was fun to do that. It's frustrating I couldn't build upon that, I wasn't able to continue down that road because I was really starting to put it together and it was really starting to come along.

Q. Tiger, the decision to be part of the Ryder Cup next year, there's been some conjecture that that's a signal from you that you're acknowledging that your career might be coming to an end. Can we put two and two together there, or is it completely separate, or how do you view that conjecture?

TIGER WOODS: Well, when I was asked to be part of the task force and I committed to that, and all the guys on the conference call, they all know what my feelings were about the Ryder Cup and how I wanted to be a part of it. I told Davis when we got into the committee level and decided who was going to be part of what, I told Davis, whatever you want me to do, I'll do. I meant that, and he knows I meant that as a friend and the guy I've gone into these teams since '97, he knew what I meant and we've had so many different conversations and texts over that time and I told him, whatever you want me to do, I'm there for you. He said, I want you to be an assistant captain. Okay, I'm in. It wasn't a real complicated conversation. I said from the outset I was going to do whatever it took, whatever our captain wanted us to do, who was part of the task force and now the committee, and all of us who are committed to doing what's best for the Cup.

Q. Excuse me, a lot of that predates any of the injury, the task force stuff, you were playing and all that.

TIGER WOODS: As I said, I told Davis from the outset that once we selected him and it was going to be him, that I would do anything that it took to help the team. As a friend and as a person, as I've said, who's been on the teams with him, played with him, I played with him in '97 -- sorry, '99 at Brookline, we played together at The Belfry, we won a point in the afternoon I believe on Sergio and Westwood maybe in the afternoon. So I've gone toe-to-toe with the guy and I've been partnered up with him as well. I understand where Davis is and I felt like I could help him.

Q. Just along Davis' lines in Greensboro, you mentioned Vijay quite a bit and the number of times he's won in his 40s and the longevity. What did you take out of or were you inspired at all by Davis winning at Greensboro at age 51?

TIGER WOODS: It's pretty incredible, especially since he had his disk fused in his neck for him to come back and play as well as he has and not go onto the Champions Tour full time, but play out here with us and still hit the ball 300-plus yards. The guy can still move it. To be able to see him do that through post-surgery and seeing all the rehab that he's had to do, go through it and to get back out there and be able to get his game back up there and be able to win plus 50 is truly remarkable.

The reason why I bring up Vijay a lot is because no one's ever done what Vijay's done. No one's ever won that many events plus 40. 20-plus events post 40 is awfully impressive. And he did it for a long time and had a tremendous amount of success late in his career, and that's through a pure work ethic and drive. Hopefully I can physically do that because I know I still have the work ethic and drive.

Q. It's been a year since you and Hero announced the deal, how's been the year so far as far as the situation with Hero goes? And also, is coming to India on the cards anytime soon?

TIGER WOODS: Well, being associated with Pawan and Hero over the year, it's been phenomenal. What we did last year at Isleworth and then our continuation here in the Bahamas and over the next couple years here, it's put us even more global. This is our first event that we've ever had outside the United States. One of the reasons that my dad and I came up with the name "World Challenge" is for us to not only have players from around the world but also travel around the world and play this event in different places besides the States. To have Hero be a part of that, a global brand, it just makes sense. For us to come here to the Bahamas, it was a no-brainer.

Q. Is coming to India in the cards anytime soon?

TIGER WOODS: As a player? No, not anytime soon. But I would like to, I would like for it to be as a player, trust me. But as a visitor and supporter of Hero, certainly in the near future, yes.

JOHN BUSH: Gentlemen, we appreciate your time, we would like to invite everyone to join us on the driving range for a special photo opportunity after the press conference.