

**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** Well, it's been 1991 since a first-time winner won here at Torrey Pines. Jon, what a way to get that first win on Tour, especially with that putt. Just take us through the last, the back nine really with those two eagles.

**JON RAHM:** Well, you know, it's really hard to describe all that went on on that back nine, but starting on 10, you know, on that hole I probably hit three perfect shots exactly the way I wanted them and got a pretty bad lip-out. It really hurt, but that got me pretty aggressive, right. And my caddie Adam was the one that kept me going on the aggressive mode. He told me on 11 to go right at the pin even though there's not much room. I hit a great shot and made the putt, stayed aggressive. Went for the green on 13, paid off, made that putt.

After that I was just in such, I had so much emotion, I was so excited about the putt and the situation, how everything was going on and I got to that tee, took a couple sips of water. I cooled myself down because I knew hitting that fairway was going to be crucial to the rest of the round. I knew that I needed to hit that fairway to stay calm, to keep positive, to keep working hard on what I had to do and I was able to do it through every single shot. I didn't make birdie on 14. Hit a great drive on 15, great second shot exactly where I wanted. Great tee shot on 16. The putt didn't fall, but once I got to 17 and I hit that fairway, you know, I didn't tell anybody but my mindset was we're one shot behind, we're one shot behind. I didn't know, I'm like I'm one shot behind, I need to make birdie. We got to the fairway, perfect yardage. Hit a nice three-quarter fade 9-iron, tried to take spin off of it. It ended up being perfect. I couldn't even plan that shot better.

After I made the putt, it was the same routine. Took a couple sips of water, calmed down, make sure I hit the fairway on 18. I knew I could get there if it was into the wind. I was really focused on just hitting that fairway. Once I hit the fairway, I got the exact same thing, like I've got to stay aggressive, I've got to hit the green, we've got to make birdie. Hit the 5-wood about 20 yards farther than I thought I was going to hit it. All the adrenaline came through and it came out more like a 3-wood than a 5-wood. Once I saw it on the green, I was like, okay, we've got a chance.

It's funny because Adam is an experienced caddie. The reason I have him on the bag, right? We got to the ball and I told him, "You're going to guide me through this putt. I've never seen it. You've got to tell me what's going to happen." He pretty much told me just get it to the slope, it's going to take it. He's like, "I know it looks like it's not much, but as soon as it gets to the slope, it's going to go all the way down and you're going to see it go in the front of the cup." And once we decided the line, I hit it and we all know what happened next.

**Q. Jon, did you expect to win this season?**

**JON RAHM:** I didn't expect it but it was one of my goals. I wanted to -- I wanted to win this season, especially having a little bit of a taste of what it feels like at Congressional and obviously in Canada.

**Q. Jon, telling yourself you were one shot behind, is that something you've done before when you were in contention or was that just something that kind of popped up today knowing the quality of the field you were facing?**

**JON RAHM:** It's something I've learned. I think at Congressional I made the mistake of waiting for people to fall instead of going for it. You know, when I tried to make something happen, it was a little too late.

Then in Canada, you know, I had the same mindset. I ended up hitting a great flop shot on 16 and almost made eagle at 18 as well, so I had the same mindset, it just didn't happen.

Today I just started earlier. I tried to be really in control of my emotions and my thoughts and just make sure that I didn't take anything for granted. I knew I had to go get it and I was really cautious about it. I really conscious about it on 17 and 18 and that's probably what happened happened.

**Q. What were you wanting to do as you stood over that putt on 18 and at what point during the 60 feet of that ball going to the hole did you start thinking, wait a minute, maybe?**

**JON RAHM:** What I wanted to do, I was aiming about three feet left of the pin, maybe a little more, to a little spike mark that was there and I was trying to just get it there. That was my goal. Start it on that line and get it to that line. After that, I knew the slope was going to take care of the rest. At first it started breaking right. It kept breaking right and I was just waiting for that ball to come back to the left. At one point I thought it was going to be about a foot short, but it just kept going and it kept going. Then towards the end, it moved a little right and it came back, came back to the left and next thing I know the ball is just coming in, going into the hole. I really, it was almost a little bit up to luck, right, just hoping to be lucky, just trying to hit my spot. I did everything I had under my possible control, which was the line and speed.

**Q. Jon, Phil says he won't play against you anymore because he can't beat you. Has playing against guys like Phil and other players who have been around for a while given you the confidence necessary to go out here and win?**

**JON RAHM:** Definitely, definitely. Having the chance to play against Phil a couple times and playing that good and winning and beating him, he's a five-time major champions, 40-plus PGA Tour events, so if I can beat on a good day, I was certain that I could win a PGA Tour event. It was just a matter of actually doing it.

**Q. On the 13th hole, most people that hit it in the bunker lay up to the bottom of the**

**hill. What made you decide to go for it?**

**JON RAHM:** Well, it was a good yardage. Well, meters for me. It was 212 meters to the pin, which is perfect carry distance for my 4-iron. My 4-iron, it's a little hybrid iron for the bunker, perfect.

Truly, I was about to tell my caddie, "Hey, how about laying up?" I looked at him and he told me, "Right at it all day." I'm like, "Just took the words right out of my mouth."

We had a couple minutes to wait and during that wait I just visualized that shot about 15 times exactly what I wanted to feel, what I wanted that ball to do, how the contact was going to feel, where I wanted the ball to start, and that ball started right on the line I wanted. It flew pretty much exactly how I wanted. The only difference, I landed short probably helping me out to be closer to the pin than on the green. But it was funny to actually see the ball fly exactly the way I visualized it 10 seconds before.

**Q. Jon, did you see the tennis results overnight at the Australian Open, Rafa?**

**JON RAHM:** Yeah, I saw he couldn't win.

**Q. Does this victory feel like a bit of a sweet win for your country given that Rafa lost the Australian Open?**

**JON RAHM:** It does. It just fills me up with pride to be able to do what I've done especially after Rafa came so close last night and wasn't able to. Rafa has given Spain and me a whole lot of happiness for what he's done his entire career, right, when he was about 18 or 19 years old. It just feels good because I know he's a huge golfer, too. To pay him back for that, it feels pretty good to be able to do what he's done in the past, to do the same thing for my Spanish fans.

**Q. You seem to have a very aggressive thinking overall in golf. Is that a Spanish thing or did you come by it naturally? And secondly, who did you kind of look up to when you started, who was kind of your guy?**

**JON RAHM:** Believe it or not, I was more aggressive when I came, you know, coming up to college than I am right now. I kind of calmed down a little bit thanks to Tim. I believe it's a Spanish mindset. I feel like we are all pretty aggressive, right? Jose, Seve, Sergio, Alvaro Quiros, people like Jimenez. I feel like we've all been pretty aggressive, I think that's the mindset probably thanks to Seve, right?

Yeah, my idol's always been Seve. Obviously I grew up on Tiger and Phil, respecting and admiring both players for what they've done, but my idol, it's always been Seve. I try to emulate what he inspired on the golf course. Not play like him because it's a little different to the way I like to play, but try to inspire and express the same emotions he used to.

**Q. Two things. One, you said meters? Do you convert everything to meters?**

**JON RAHM:** We do everything in meters, yeah. Four years in college, I never changed. We had the range finders; why change, right?

**Q. Does Adam know how to do it?**

**JON RAHM:** He does.

**Q. Did you ever see Seve play in person?**

**JON RAHM:** I didn't have the pleasure to see him play in person. I think I was too young. I got to meet him once, the Basque Federation prize giving ceremony at the end of the year. I can't remember how old I was, but I was too young to appreciate who I was shaking hands with.

**Q. Jon, when you look at life accomplishments, what's bigger to you, that trophy next to you or just getting through your first semester at Arizona State with the challenges you had there?**

**JON RAHM:** They're pretty equal, they're pretty equal. My first semester at Arizona State, it wasn't an easy one. Basically, the language barrier was hard. It was hard for me to understand what they were telling me, it was hard for me to express what I was saying. To be honest, when I showed up to my first class, there was 375 people and I came from a high school where the biggest class was 30 people. It was pretty different. I thought I walked into a movie theater, to be honest. I thought it was just a movie theater and I was in the wrong place. It was my macroeconomic principles class. I'll never forget that. It was Econ 212 or something. I'll never forget that.

It's different feelings. To be able to win here on such an iconic golf course that I grew up idolizing and just dreaming to play. I told my girlfriend many times, I'm just extremely happy to be teeing up at Torrey South, remembering all the great shots that Tiger and Phil and many other players have hit at this golf course, that bunker shot that John Daly had, many other things. And then on top of that to be able to get my first win on Tour here, I mean, that doesn't get much better than that.

**Q. You're referencing Arizona State and Tim was telling me that he shared a text with you on Wednesday morning about that this could be your first win. Did you believe that?**

**JON RAHM:** Yeah, I really did a lot of work like that last night. It wasn't only him. My caddie also sent me a text telling me we're going to show what we're capable of. Tim told me at the beginning of the week he was having a feeling it was going to be it. I was having it, too, but yesterday night I was a little bit frustrated because I didn't make all the putts that I wanted to make. I felt like I played tee to green extremely good, but I didn't make the putts.

I was thinking about it a little bit in bed, and before I went to sleep I just flipped the switch. I just felt like I was tired of complaining, I was tired of thinking negative. I was like let's just -- and that's what Kelly came in, too. She just helped me out in that. Let's think positive, we're going to win tomorrow, we're going to get it done. Just like in Canada, we're three shots back, we're 6 under. Leader's 9 under, the same leader, Brandt Snedeker. Do the same thing, do the same thing. Start strong and keep it going. And then even if I started with a bogey, my mindset was the same. I stayed strong and I kept going and I played aggressive and it paid off.

**Q. Did you watch the leaderboard at all, did you know where you stood and did you see that every time you looked at the leaderboard there was probably somebody different that was on top of it? Was that something you were conscious of or do you not look?**

**JON RAHM:** Well, it's hard not to look because sometimes you're hitting a shot and it's right in your line, but I didn't see one until No. 6 green and that's when I saw I think I was 1-under par and I had I think a seven-footer for par, and the leaders were still at 9 under. So I was like okay, let's make this and keep going. Then I didn't know anything until I made that eagle putt on 13 and I saw I was tied for the lead. I knew I was going to be up there, I just didn't know I was going to be tied with four other guys for the lead. So seeing that probably helped me out to keep pushing harder.

**Q. How much English did speak when you got to Arizona State, would you say, scale of 1 to 10?**

**JON RAHM:** Coach, do you want answer that for me?

**TIM MICKELSON:** One.

**JON RAHM:** It was seriously a process where you would ask me that question and I would have to translate to Spanish, understand it, think what I had to say in Spanish, translate it to English and then say it. A lot of times I wouldn't understand some words and I would just be too embarrassed about the time I was thinking and I would just say yes or no.

**Q. Did you say yes or si?**

**JON RAHM:** I would say yes or no. It was hard at first because besides I learned -- I grew up learning about U.K. English, that accent and those phrases. When I came here and they were a little different, a couple different phrases, it was kind of hard to get adjusted. But mainly I had to learn a new language.

**Q. You've done remarkably. How did you do it and was there a point early on where you thought I'm not going to make it, I can't make it here much longer?**

**JON RAHM:** I never thought I couldn't make it. I really don't think that I can't make it really

ever. That's probably why happened today happened.

What I needed to do was to learn and quick. I knew I had to. It was going to be a struggle but I did. One of the things coach did, Alberto Sanchez, my teammate, it's a Mexican family, he speaks Spanish so we used to speak Spanish. And he was tired of it because I remember we're at McDowell Mountain, 16th hole. We were playing with one of my former teammates, Chris Russo, and we were speaking Spanish. He said, "Hey, Chris, how does it feel to be in America and not be able to understand the people you're playing with?"

So he made a decision, okay, from every word you guys say in Spanish from now on in front of the team, it's going to be one burpee. And a burpee's pretty much a pushup and jump up and back to pushup. So you say a sentence that has 10 words, you're making 10 burpees. And they're not easy, they're tiring. And if he catches you having a five-minute conversation, you do not want to know what's going on next.

So just scared of having to do that, I put myself into, you know, reading the syllabus daily, what was going on, making the class readings, and to be honest, learning songs. Memorizing rap songs in English is actually something that helped me out a lot to be able to talk in English than talking like this [speaking slowly] and stopping and then keep going. It helped me out a lot to pronounce and actually understand what was going on and keeping up with people in conversation.

**Q. Close call, you put yourself in contention a few times, the close calls you had, did you leave feeling that's a great finish for a young player, did you leave stinging a little bit that you didn't get it done?**

**JON RAHM:** Well, Congressional was kind of the second thing. I made it to the British Open, it was my first start, so I was stung that I didn't make it but I was happy that I was there. And after Canada, after that putt didn't go in, you can see the images, I'm not happy. I was really pissed. I really don't like finishing in second and to see myself in such control having a chance and having a 12-footer for eagle to tie the lead, I was like, I'm going to make it, I just saw it. Seeing the putt drip by the hole, it did not feel good. I really said if we're going to have the chance next time, you're going to make that putt, and today I was able to have it before 18 and I was lucky to make the putt.

**Q. Can you give us a couple or three of your favorite rap songs that you did, can you rap a little bit for us?**

**JON RAHM:** I'm not going to rap because the words that say are not the most appropriate, but I can say an artist. Kendrick Lamar and Eminem. I'd say my top songs would be Swimming Pools by Kendrick Lamar, which took me almost four years to memorize the entire song. I would say from Eminem, Love the Way you Lie, Eminem featuring Rihanna. And the third one I would have to say from Kendrick Lamar as well, it's probably Poetic Justice or Money Trees. One of those three. You can look them up, they're good, they're good.



**Q. It might take us four years to learn it.**

**JON RAHM:** It probably won't.

**Q. Did that putt take forever or did it just go slow? What was that mindset, how long did that putt take for your mind?**

**JON RAHM:** I haven't thought about it, but I feel like the last six feet, I feel like they took about 35 minutes. The first 15, a second. Because I remember hitting it and the next thing I remember is the ball about 10 feet from the hole. So really the first part is almost a blur because you don't realize it's going in, but when I saw it tracking, I'm like, like everything stopped. I did not hear anything. Then it kept tracking and kept going. But I really felt like it took forever. I'm like, Get there already, go, go in or not but stop somewhere. Thank God it got there but it took a long time.

**Q. What are your thoughts on going to the Masters and what kind of relationship do you have with Augusta, whether it's a video game, how much on TV or been there in a practice round or what?**

**JON RAHM:** Well, I've never played Augusta. I've never been there, but I've watched so many golf videos and major videos that I probably know what I'm going to hit on each hole before I show up. The only difference is knowing the slopes on the greens or not. Pretty much the same with a lot of the iconic courses like this one.

But to be able to tee it up at Augusta is really an incredible feeling. My first year as a PGA Tour member to get my entrance into Augusta like that it really is something special. It's one of the most important tournaments in the world; for some, the most. As a European, I like the British Open a little more, but the Masters is really something different to the other ones.

**Q. How soon did you think about that after you know you're going to win?**

**JON RAHM:** I really didn't think about it. I was actually really happy I was going to play THE PLAYERS, I was going to be able to play the WGC events, I was able to probably get into the invitationals without asking for an invite. So another player, hopefully one of my friends, gets a pick. So I really was thinking about that, about how my schedule was going to be a lot easier because up until now, all we knew I was going to do was up until the Genesis Open in L.A. After that, we were going to decide what to do depending on what we did. And if something like this happened, now that we can play certain events, we can plan the schedule. But truly I was completely blank after February, we did not know what was going on.

**Q. Take you back to the college stuff you were talking about, but can you just run through how you even got to Arizona, how Tim found you and like why you're here?**

**JON RAHM:** I really don't know why. That's a question you can ask him. I don't know why.

It was a different -- it's a different way of recruiting. He really took about five seconds for a coach. He sent me a message and I said yes as soon as I could. I had an offer from another school, but they mistaken my age so they wanted me to wait one year in Spain. A guy from Spanish Golf Federation called Ricardo Relique, he lives around here in San Diego, he actually put him -- Tim had an empty spot on the roster, was it March or May?

**TIM MICKELSON:** I think it was May.

**JON RAHM:** It was May. I still had to take my English test to come here. We were really in a countdown to be able to make it and Ricardo told Tim about me. I had never played in the States. And even if I was high ranked in the world ranking, no one really knew about me. He never met me before, had no idea who I was, what I looked like. He just decided to give me a chance out of my world ranking and what Ricardo told him. He offered me a scholarship like that.

To be honest, I come from a small town so I had no idea what ASU was. The only thing I knew was about Stanford, Harvard and a couple other schools, right? I had no idea where it was. I made some research. I saw a lot of Spanish people played at that school and they had a lot of success. Carlota Ciganda. So I was really -- if they've been able to do it, why not? They like the Spaniards over there, so why not go there. So I took a chance because it's as much of a chance he took, I took. Landed in the States with the school year already started. I had no idea what my schedule was, I had no idea what classes were, I had no idea what anything was. Basically, they told him about me, he took a chance and thank God he did.

**Q. When you were still in school and like at Phoenix Open a couple years ago and came out here and ran into a Spanish player, did you ever think about a burpee before you went to say something to him?**

**JON RAHM:** Sorry, what?

**Q. Were you so conditioned to speaking English, did you ever think about a burpee --**

**JON RAHM:** No, that was only for like the first year. I think it was only -- that was only for the first semester. Once I was able to communicate with people constantly without taking 30 minutes to have two sentences out, I think he just, you know, he took the rule down. He didn't want us too sore for practice anymore so he just eliminated that rule. It only lasted for a couple months, right? It wasn't that much. I learned quickly, thank God.

**AMANDA HERRINGTON:** Well, congratulations, Jon, and thank you all.