



**CHRIS REIMER:** Welcome Dustin Johnson, three-time World Golf Champion, No. 1 player in the world, here to the media center at the World Golf Championships Mexico Championship. Dustin, we'll just started with some openings comments about coming here to Mexico City and playing in a World Golf Championships event.

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, it's been great so far. Hospitality's been amazing. Golf course is good. It's a lot different playing, where are we at, 7,500 feet. It's interesting. Ball goes really far but it's been fun trying to figure it all out. The golf course, I like the golf course so far. I played the back nine yesterday, I'm going to go play the front here in a little bit.

**Q. What were you are expecting before you came here and has anything surprised you?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** No. Well, I didn't really -- I didn't know anything about the golf course, but talking to a couple people last week, they were telling me it's obviously at elevation but it's, you know, like mountains, it's tree-lined and stuff, so that I liked better than playing at elevation in a desert.

**Q. What about your experience in Mexico?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** The hotel's nice. That's about as much as I've experienced here so far, the golf course and the hotel. Don't really get much time to wander out, but it's been good so far.

**Q. Dustin, could you give a couple of examples of the difference in distances here?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah. I mean for me, you know, obviously I've got my TrackMan so I've been working with it, so it's about 15 percent. If you hit just a normal stock shot, obviously it varies. If you flight it down or if you flight it up in the air, it goes further or shorter, just depending. But wedges, around 10 percent. As soon as you get to pitching wedge, 9-iron, it gets to 15 quickly, especially since it's so -- it's nice and warm out.

**Q. Hello. How do you feel playing Mexico City and this club, this tournament?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I feel good. Obviously it's a big tournament. Most of the best players in the world are here. You know, it's a big event. It's my first time here and yeah, it's nice. I like it.

**Q. DJ, I saw you working with TrackMan this morning. Were there any numbers that just shocked you when you hit your driver or your 3-iron, whatever the case may be?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, they're all a little shocking because I'm used to playing at sea level where, or if -- I mean if anything, most of the time the ball goes shorter than what our normal distances are, especially playing on the West Coast, it's cold, it's raining a little bit, ball doesn't go anywhere. So then you come here and a normal pitching wedge for me goes 144 yards and here I can -- if I hit one a little hard and get it up in the air, it will fly 180, so it's going a lot further. But it's pretty consistent as far as how the ball's flying so it's not -- I'm not getting my different numbers all the time, it's all very consistent.

**Q. Dustin, what is your reaction to the proposed rule changes, especially it appears that no one will ever have to go through the angst you experienced at Oakmont last year?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, I mean obviously some of the rule changes I think are really good, especially the ball on the putting green when you don't feel like you caused it to move and you're still getting a penalty, that to me makes no sense. So I think some of the rule changes are good. Obviously they're trying to simplify the rules a little bit just so there's not so much confusion.

**Q. Do you feel like they're too complicated?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I mean, yes and no. Some of them are complicated. I've been on Tour for 10 years now and I still have to call a rules official over sometimes when I'm taking relief from something just because some of them are complicated, yes.

**Q. First of all, welcome to Mexico. All of this are the same questions, but this is advantage or disadvantage for you, the shorter course, and many golfer has say that the greens are tricky. Do you think the same?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, I mean the greens are good, they're rolling nicely but there's a lot of slope and they are a little tricky. Obviously distance control is going to be a factor and playing at the altitude, I think you're going to -- you might see some shots you might normally wouldn't see just because the ball's going to go a lot further than you think sometimes. But yeah, I mean it's going to be fun. It's different, so I like a challenge.

**Q. Besides the elevation, the altitude, what will be the biggest challenge for the weekend and how do you approach this tournament being No. 1 in the world?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Well, I won't approach it any different than I do any golf tournament I play in no matter what position I am in the World Ranking. Makes no difference to me. Yeah, this is a -- never played here. They had a tournament here, I guess. I don't know what kind of tournament it was.

**CHRIS REIMER:** Champions Tour.

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Champions Tour.

**Q. Are the greens tricky?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, the back nine, yeah. There was a lot of slope in them, yeah, so it's tricky. Knowing what kind of score you need to shoot here to contend, I have no idea. I'm going to try to shoot as low as I can every day and hopefully I'll have a chance to win here on Sunday.

**Q. Dustin, is it your understanding that the new proposed rule, had that been in effect last year at Oakmont, you basically talked to the rules official, you move it back even though you could probably hardly tell how far to move it and you move on and that's it, right?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** The rule now is, or even then, the rule is if you didn't cause it to move, it's not a penalty. I don't understand it, I still don't. I know now, though, that I wouldn't get a penalty if my ball rolls over a putt, so that's nice. But other than that, I've got no idea exactly what they were thinking.

**Q. Dustin, when you put Austin on your back in Perth, did you think that was just a short-term thing and all this time later, why do you think you guys work so well together?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, well, Bobby Brown was caddying for me and I think that was the time where he was having a baby, so he had to take some time off. So Austin went to Perth with me and then he was already over there and I was playing China two weeks later, so I just told Bobby to stay home and AJ will work that week, too. We did fine in Perth and obviously we did really well in China at the WGC, we won. After that, yeah, I mean, I liked having my brother on the bag and we get along very well and obviously he's my brother. Yeah, after that it was Bobby kind of got the shaft a little bit, I think. You know, it was just kind of coincidence how it happens, but it's been good ever since.

**Q. It's tough to lose your job to childbirth?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I figured if I was -- we spent so much time together, I'm paying a caddie, so if my brother wanted to do it, I would rather have him on the bag.

**Q. Dustin, people say that this course looks very narrow from the tees and you're obviously one of the bigger hitters out here. How much do you really anticipate attacking this thing and trying to maybe drive a few of the par 4s?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Well, it is very narrow, tree-lined and the trees are, they go down pretty low to the ground. So if you hit it in the trees you're not -- unless -- you've got to be on the right side of the hole, you've got to miss it on the right side because then you can kind of chase one up on the green. But if you miss them in the wrong spots, it's very difficult to get it anywhere even close to the green. There's a lot of chip-outs.

Yesterday I played the back nine, I hit 2-iron or less on every hole and hit driver on one par 5 on the -- maybe 15, I think. But I'm going to go play the front here in a few minutes and it will probably be a lot of the same, a lot of irons off the tees just to keep it in play.

**Q. Maybe you should just take the driver out of the bag like Phil?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, I mean, I really could. I don't need to hit it around here even to get to the par 5s. I can still get home hitting an iron off the tee.

**Q. The altitude can affect you also physically. How you feel about this?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I feel good. I've been training since I got here. It's definitely a little bit more difficult in the gym, I can tell the difference. I've spent some time at altitude so it doesn't affect me too much.

**Q. Has anyone said anything to you about being No. 1? Has anybody had any like perks or were you No. 1 at Riviera and out of sight, out of mind?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I mean, other than, you know, my buddies or the guys out here congratulating me, but at home I really didn't see anybody. I was out at the course a little practicing, playing some golf a little bit. Yeah, I haven't really done anything or got any perks from it yet.

**Q. It's a let-down, isn't it?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** No, it's fine.

**Q. We asked you at Riviera what you thought it would be like to be No. 1 and you said, "I've been No. 1 for 30 minutes, ask me later." So do you feel any different with the ranking?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I don't. Yeah, I'm No. 1 right now. Hopefully I'll stay that way for a while, but you never know. But like I said, it's kind of, being No. 1, it drives me to continue to work harder and get better and continue to do the same things that I'm doing. So we'll see. But yeah, I mean obviously it feels good, but it's no different.

**Q. Rory described it as more of an ego gratification than anything. Agree or disagree?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, I mean, I guess.

**Q. Whose idea was the video to announce boy or girl? Did you come up with that one?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** No, I did not. It's Paulina. All the videos that we do, Paulina's idea. But I thought it was a cool idea to do.

**Q. Did you hit it good?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, smoked it.

**Q. DJ, you know what it takes now to get to No. 1 in the world. Do you think it will be equally if not even more difficult to maintain that position?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I mean, they're both very difficult, whether to get here or to maintain it is hard. I'm going to just keep working at it and keep doing the best I can and keep trying to win golf tournaments.

**CHRIS REIMER:** All right, Dustin. Thank you so much. Good luck this week.