FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: JON RAHM (-8)

May 7, 2017



Q. Here with Jon Rahm. Jon, take us through especially the back nine today with the chance, you were right there in the beginning and you had a chance to win?

**JON RAHM:** You know, after that putt on 12, things were rolling. Two great shots on 13, a great putt. And then at 14 it just started, which has been pretty much everything on the back nine, right? I was making the right swings, I just wasn't hitting them close enough. What I thought was going to be a perfect shot went to 30 feet on 14. What I thought was an even better shot went in the bunker on 15. Same on 16, same on 17, same on 18. I mean yesterday was the same thing. You know, but I've got to say, I've been hitting the shots, making the swings, I just haven't been fortunate enough to hit it close or make a putt at the end, which is usually what it takes to win it. You know, it's just golf.

Q. Well, in your defense, the winds were tricky. They were down a little bit today, but they were still difficult to judge. Take us through that 5-wood at 18, which to me looked spectacular in the air and carried over 265 yards in the air?

JON RAHM: Well, we were thinking about even before Brian made that great putt -- congrats, by the way -- we were thinking 4-iron to left side and give us a 30-footer, 40-footer, maybe two-putt -- make it for eagle or maybe two-putt for birdie tie, right? Once he made it obviously there was no other choice but eagle. And distance wise, I don't hit a 5-wood fade more than 230 meters but I had 234. So I thought it would be perfect, especially on an up-slope. I thought, okay, this is a great shot. I could have not planned it any better in my mind. It was going just a foot right of the flagstick. Both Adam and I thought if this lands close, it might stay on the back edge and have a chance. Last thing I thought it was going to almost fly the green. Could barely see the pin, didn't see my landing spot. It's just -- it wasn't an easy chip.

Q. How does this performance this week set you up mentally for next week, THE PLAYER Championship, a very big event. Maybe not the kind of golf course where you can rely on your weapon, your driver, all the time, but how does it set up for you?

**JON RAHM:** Well, it certainly is a ball striker's course and ball-striking wise this week, I've been pretty solid. I feel like this week in general, a hole in my short game let me down a little bit. Just things that happen. I wish it didn't, but things that happen. Being a ball-striker's course, I'm pretty confident. I've never been there before. I'll see if I can use my weapon or not. I'll try to as much as I can, but I know hitting the fairways is a main objective on that course, so we'll see, but I'm confident being a ball-striker's course.

Q. Brian Harman wasn't the only one having emotions on the 72nd hole. (Inaudible).

**JON RAHM:** Well, it was funny because early Adam and I were thinking, well, I guess I'm going to have to be the first one to eagle 18 to win twice in a row, right? But once he made that putt and I knew it was to win, I had a (inaudible.) I probably hit one of the best 5-woods I've hit in my life, probably better than the one at 18 at Torrey. The adrenaline, it was just so flushed and it was way longer than I expected. And then that chip was really hard. I feel like I can't put it only on 18, right? The blame should be -- if anything (inaudible). It's golf. I knew I had to do it, I didn't get it done this week, but I'm just happy again I had a chance to win.

## Q. Talk about this week. Just about every day your ball striking has been tremendous.

**JON RAHM:** Yeah, especially going into next week, TPC Sawgrass is known to be a ball-strikers' course. And my good friend Sergio is proof that a good ball striker can perform properly and that's what I'm thinking. I can maybe not be able to hit a driver as often as I want to, but it was proof today that without being able to make putts or chip properly, ball striking helped me shoot an under par round and still have a chance. I hope I can carry it on.

## Q. Final thing, five top-10s. As a first-year member on the PGA Tour, have you exceeded expectations or are you right on track?

**JON RAHM:** You know, I'm not a person that goes really far ahead on a schedule. Once I won Torrey, I accomplished the main goal for the year. I've just got to take it week to week and see what's to come. Honestly, being 100 percent honest, in three tournaments I had a decent chance of winning, (inaudible) but that's just golf. I'm playing against the best in the world, and to be my first year and have as many options as anyone to win tournaments, I'm extremely happy just about that. Hope I can keep it going and maybe next week have a chance again.