



**Q. How was your round today?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Fantastic. Bogeyed 8, that just topped my day off. I felt like I played well today. A few putts here, the bogeys that I made were just -- I hit good putts, they just didn't go in the hole, tough reads. Other than that I felt like I played pretty solid. Feel like I'm hitting the ball pretty well. Definitely wedging it good, driving it fairly good. The irons were a little bit off today so I'm going to go work on that on the range.

**Q. What do you want to achieve this week, accomplish?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I want to have a chance to win here coming down the back nine on Sunday.

**Q. Just like any other tournament?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Right. The game's good enough, absolutely.

**Q. Do you feel like you need to see something like contention with an hour to go type thing to feel like you're really making progress today?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** No, I'm ready. The game's there, it's there for sure. I'm starting to play golf again. I'm not out there trying to find it. I feel like I got it. Last week was really solid every day. I didn't hole any putts last week, and didn't drive it that great, but really hit my irons well. I feel like I finally -- I got a new driver this week. I got a higher loft, I'm using actually a 12-degree but opened up so I can get it to fade a little bit easier.

**Q. Were you surprised to see where the drive on 16 ended up?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** No, I mean you hit one solid down the middle there for me, I can get it down to the bottom. Yeah, I got down there pretty nicely.

**Q. What did you do from there?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Hit a 4-iron and actually hit a really good shot, but it's a really tough shot from there. It was cutting in just, and it just nicked that tree on the left and it kind of fell down the fairway. I made 4 there. But it was going to be pretty good, I think, if it wouldn't have clipped the tree.

**Q. On a scale of 1 to 10, what kind of caddie is Austin for you and what kind of caddie do you think he would be for someone else?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** For me he's a 10. He does a great job for me. Obviously he's my brother, so he knows me better than anyone. He knows just to stay out of the way and we'll be fine.

**Q. How would he be for Rory, what grade would you give him?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I think he'd be just fine for anyone. He's a good caddie, he knows what he's doing out there. He's come a long way. Obviously he's been doing it for, I don't even know how long now.

**Q. Four years?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, four years. He's a golfer, he plays all the time, he's a good player.

**Q. Relationship seems to be such a big part of this?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** It is. I mean, if you think about it, we spend a lot of time with our caddies, a lot of time. Traveling, on the golf course, practicing. I don't know how long it took us today, but every day we're out here for seven hours probably, at least. You definitely need to like your caddie.

**Q. Going back to the driver, do you enjoying tinkering with equipment mid season?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** No, I hate it. I don't like to change clubs ever, so when I find stuff I like, I play with it as long as I can.

**Q. So what sparked the change this week?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I felt like -- well, especially after last week when I know I'm swinging really well. You know, before that, that was kind of hard to judge because I wasn't even hitting my irons good, so I can't really judge my driver swings if I can't even hit a wedge where I want to. I'm really hitting my irons really well last week, hitting the shots that I wanted to hit and then I feel like I'm making good swings with the driver, but it just wasn't doing what I thought it should do. That's why I made the change but it's good. I feel like the shots that I'm hitting with it are the ones that I feel like I hit and that's the big key for me.

**Q. When was the last time you changed the driver before this week?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I don't know.

**Q. What was your loft before?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** It was kind of 10.5 in standard so it was right around 10 and a half degrees, but now I went to a higher lofted 12-degree and opened it up. It's the same loft, it

just sits a little more square for me.

**Q. What kind of meaning does next week take on for you given how the year in the majors has gone? Was the last one --**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Obviously I feel like I'm playing well going into there, so yeah, I want to contend. I haven't seen the golf course, but from what I remember it, the old course was just fine, I liked it. If I'm playing good, I like any golf course.

**Q. Looking to defend here at Firestone, all things considered, how would you grade your effort here in the opening round?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** I thought I played pretty well. The golf course is playing good. Hit a few good putts from short range that hit the hole that didn't go in, but other than that it was a pretty solid day. Felt like I drove it okay. Had some nice, good wedge shots.

**Q. When you come back to a place that you won the year before, what does that do? We always talk about confidence but from the mindset of knowing the last time a tournament was here, you were the guy that left as a winner?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, it definitely gives me a lot of confidence. That was a year ago, so a lot of things happened since then. This year, I'm feeling good coming in this week. I felt like the game is definitely turned around and I'm starting to see some signs of it being really good, so that definitely gives me a lot of confidence and I'm definitely happy with the way I played today.

**Q. A big stretch of two months of golf, majors, this week, the Presidents Cup, how do you approach being ready and competitive each and every time out?**

**DUSTIN JOHNSON:** Yeah, it's definitely a big couple months coming up here. I just had two in a row, I played British and Canada the last two weeks, this week, PGA next week, the Playoffs. So I've got a big stretch coming up but I'm ready. I feel good, body feels great and I'm starting to play well.