

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 26, 2018

JON RAHM (-10)

Q. Jon, a round of 66 with six birdies and no bogeys. You're making the game look very easy. How's it feel to you?

JON RAHM: Not easy at all today at least. You know, I had the putter really hot on the first nine holes, I made a lot of really good putts, four for birdie and par, but my short game kept me a live today. All those par saves and a couple of those 50-yard shots over rough to make birdie on 10 and 11, it made this round be what it is, right? It could have been 2 under par or 3, 2 under par, close to even, maybe even, but those couple of saves is what made it be such a good round.

Q. First time you've been defending champion as a professional. How's the experience been?

JON RAHM: It's good. You know, it's really fun to be the last person that won here and be playing good again and have a chance to go back to back. It's a great feeling, especially in the city of San Diego where I've got a lot of friends, I'm really comfortable. It truly is a good feeling.

Q. You've given your caddie Adam a lot of credit for your success saying that he's played a big part in it. Outside of giving you the right yardages and the right clubs, how does he help you?

JON RAHM: He's just a great guy to be around, to be honest. Whether I'm playing good or bad, he can always get a smile on my face. The atmosphere we have around is great and I think that's key. It's always really a lot of positive energy going on around him and both of us when we're playing and it just makes me play good. Plus, I mean, we have a lot of fun out there. It all complements itself when you play good.

Q. (No microphone.)

JON RAHM: Actually, I probably shot the lowest I could shoot today. I did not like my driving today. There was a couple good ones but there was a stretch from basically the fourth hole until No. 5, in a stretch of 10, 11 holes where I couldn't figure it out. But I think the highlight today was my short game. I was able to get up and down for par and not making mistakes and taking advantage of the birdie putts.

Q. Yeah, and playing with Jason, who was also lighting up the scoreboard, I thought you guys kind of played off each other really well?

JON RAHM: Yeah, I mean all three of us started great, we were all like 2 or 3 under in the first five holes, but Jason just took it to another level. To shoot 6 under on that front nine, the back nine, is not easy to do. He was just hitting it perfect, out in the middle of the fairway long and then great iron shots, making putts. He probably feels like he left a couple out there on the last few, but it's a heck of a round.

Q. So thoughts going into the weekend, you're back on the South course for the next 36 holes. You, of course, played very well there in the opening round and you're just one off the lead at this point.

JON RAHM: Just keep doing what I'm doing, you know? Still two more days, a lot of golf to be played and a lot more things that can happen, so hopefully it keeps going well.

Q. Jon, how would you assess your round today?

JON RAHM: God, the first I would say 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 were really good, and then kind of my swing started feeling a little iffy off the tee. I wasn't hitting it in the fairway, not comfortable, and I was able to save some great pars out there today. I mean, the par I made on 13 itself, the putt I made on 4 from deep rough and 50 yards away, I made a couple of great up-and-downs, a couple of those for birdie.

Then I kind of pulled it back again on the last few holes, right? From 5 on I hit the fairways, I hit the greens, I had a couple birdie chances and finished strong. Overall, a great day. Obviously what to say, a bogey-free 6-under par is always great, but definitely the highlight was short game today. Hit a couple key par putts out there today.

Q. Jon, being at the top of the leaderboard for two straight weeks, that can be taxing for a player. How do you feel?

JON RAHM: Well, I think I'm one off the top, right? But you know, that's what we're here for, we're here to compete and try the best and it's always great to see your name up there. I kind of -- you feed off of that. Things are going well, you're playing good so you're trying to get a little higher, a little higher. Usually I don't feel the fatigue up until the tournament's over. Once the tournament's over, Monday and Tuesday you might feel a little bit, but while the tournament's going on we have too much adrenaline to even think about it.

Q. How do you process when you came here last year you were 137th world and if you win this week you can be No. 1 in the world? Do you think about that when you're -- how do you process that?

JON RAHM: Very simple, I had five weeks off over Christmas to process what I had done and move on. It's a brand new year with new goals and, you know, new objectives in mind and I'm just trying to keep going and try to keep playing good golf. What happened will happen, but so far I'm trying to focus on one round at a time.

Q. Why is your game so adaptable? You've won in Ireland, you won at Dubai, you won at CareerBuilder, you won at the coast, it's all very different places. You played in the desert in college.

JON RAHM: Well, I've played in all those places so much and then I grew up playing European-style golf, then four years of college I got used to American-style golf, and I'm just really an adaptable person. I don't think the golf course needs to suit your game, you need to adapt to the golf course. That's where the mental part of it comes into play. I feel like I just mentally adjust and I know it is what it is each week and you've got to play with it. I don't know, I guess yeah, I guess it's just more of a mental thing just getting comfortable with the golf course rather than getting comfortable any other way.

Q. What's been going well for this stretch from Dubai on?

JON RAHM: There's a big gap between Dubai and Kapalua, but I think my iron game has been pretty strong each and every time, especially these last three starts without cut in Dubai -- actually counting Dubai, my short game's been really, really good. So when you're not making many bogeys and you're still making birdies, you're always going to be (inaudible).

Q. Is there any place or any conditions that -- is there a set of circumstances that (inaudible)?

JON RAHM: I mean, like I said, nobody likes bad conditions, nobody likes rain, nobody likes high winds, but you need to get used to it. It's just how it goes. You have to be mentally tougher than the rest and make sure that bad breaks are going to happen and try to process that as best as possible.