

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW**  
**November 11, 2018**



**MATT KUCHAR (-22)**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome our champion of the 2018 Mayakoba Golf Classic, Matt Kuchar. Congratulations and thanks for joining us.

Just some numbers before getting into it, Matt. This is your first win since 2014 on the PGA TOUR. It's your eighth victory. 22-under 262 sets the tournament record, and it's also your career best 72-hole score on the PGA TOUR. You move to fifth in the FedExCup. On top of that, there's a lot of other invitationals, including a trip to Maui at the beginning of the year where I know you're (inaudible) with your family.

Must have been a pretty exciting day in getting across the line, must have been pretty emotional for you.

**MATT KUCHAR:** Yeah, thank you, Mark. It's an amazing feeling to win a PGA TOUR event. It is a hard thing to do. It feels extra sweet having kind of suffered through a year this year not playing great in 2018, being four years removed since my last victory. I realize how difficult it is to win on the PGA TOUR.

Certainly made it exciting coming in. It wasn't the finish I was hoping there. I would have liked to have nailed a five or six (inaudible) on that final green, but glad to get it in, glad to get this victory.

Like I said, winning here is so difficult because the strength of field every week is awfully good, the depth and the strength of these players now. The young guys that come up are just younger, stronger, bigger and better and pushing the ball forward and forward and making us all better along the way.

So for me to come out on top is a special feeling. To have my kids there, I nearly teared up when I sank that final three-footer and then saw the family come running out. It's a special thing for me. My kids are kind of an age where they understand what I do. They hadn't seen me win a tournament in a long time, and to be able to do that in front of them is great. To have the support they've given me, my wife in particular.

Like I said, '18 hadn't been my best year. To get knocked out of the Playoffs early, to not be selected to the Ryder Cup, there were a handful of disappointments along the way. It was shaping up to be a pretty rough year for me, but always had great support from my wife, from the kids, and to have them here is awfully special.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I know you've got a lot of golf before the end of the year, you're heading to Australia, but as you said, it's been a disappointing 2018 for you. This makes it a little

better. But going into '19 and going to the Tournament of Champions at Maui where you've had a lot of success, you've had a lot of top-10s there, just talk about that and the opportunity to start '19 off --

**MATT KUCHAR:** 69 that's a huge perk, Mark. A huge perk is making that Tournament of Champions. It's one of my favorite events of the year, that event at Kapalua is an incredible event to be part of such a select, elite field of winners from the past year. I look forward to it every opportunity. I can't believe it's been four years. I love all of Hawaii, and to be able to go play in such a field as the Tournament of Champions is a special, special thing. So I'm psyched to get to Maui, psyched to get to Kapalua. That's a big bonus.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** We'll take some questions.

**Q. Congratulations. Coming into the 18th hole, you had a one-stroke (inaudible.) What was going through your mind as you walked up the 18th hole?**

**MATT KUCHAR:** I heard Danny Lee was within one shot and heard a par at 18 to make sure that I had a one-shot lead with one to go. I knew I was hitting it really well. It was a matter of continuing to do that, to find the fairway, find the green and try to make a two-putt as simple as possible.

Hit a good drive that got a bit of a lucky break. That was a big bonus for me to have the ball land in the right side of the rough and bounce into the fairway. That was a very fortunate break. I thought I hit a really good approach shot that was just going to be a safe 20- to 30-foot putt, and it ended up just on the fringe with mud on the ball just where my putter was going to strike it. I was awful nervous that that may make the putt come out five or 10 feet short, so I wasn't sure just how it would affect it. And I think it affected it just barely where it came up kind of two or three feet short.

From there it was a basic three-foot putt. It was straight in, but man, the nerves that go along with trying to make a three-foot putt to win a tournament are awfully strong and I was glad to see that one find the bottom of the hole.

**Q. (Question about local caddie, El Tucan.)**

**MATT KUCHAR:** He was right, he's definitely my lucky charm. It was great having him with me. I feel like he brought me good luck, some extra crowd support, and did a great job as well. So he was great on the bag. Did just what I kind of was looking for and hoping for.

So fun to have a local on the bag to have all the extra support that goes along with having a local caddie as well he seemed to be good luck. It worked for me a couple years ago, America's Cup down at Golf Club Campestre. Had a local caddie there as well and was able to win. It's certainly brought me some good luck.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Have you heard from John Wood yet?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I think he's flying, I think he's en route to Australia. I'm sure John's disappointed not to have worked this week. He's a great caddie, John does a fantastic job. I look forward to getting back with him next week, but I'm excited for El Tucan, sorry for John.

**Q. One of the things that I noticed today at the end of the tournament was that along the very -- top-20 some odd finish, one of your playing partners (inaudible) was the only one we saw as high as (inaudible.) To what do you attribute the fact that there were so many below par scores in today's round, and did you find the course playing a little easier despite the fact that you ended up just 2 under rather than (inaudible) the first three rounds?**

**MATT KUCHAR:** There were definitely some more challenging pins today. Conditions were great all week. I think the tournament has to be pleased, we had very, very fair conditions for all tee times. Not much wind. I think that not much wind, you're talking about the best players in the world, and when you're looking at the top of the leaderboard, you're talking about the best players in the world that are playing well at the moment, so you're seeing a lot of guys play awfully good golf. It's why winning is so difficult out here. There's so many guys that have a chance to win and so many guys that are capable of winning.

**Q. Matt, you were in here yesterday and we talked about turning 40 and looking ahead to your 40s. You said you sort of thought of it both ways, (inaudible) maybe it's just too hard to win now. How do you sort of reassess your career at this point? And just for Maui, are you looking forward to other things like the Presidents Cup?**

**MATT KUCHAR:** I think I stand by some of those comments yesterday, Cameron, in that I love playing the game of golf. That's what drives me, that's what motivates me. And I will continue to try to get better. It always helps with confidence. I think winning a tournament always helps breed confidence. Confidence goes a long way in this game. Knowing that I can do it. Knowing that, you know, 40 is just a number. Turns out 40 may be the new 20, so that's how I'm going to try to look at it.

I don't think I've changed any of my goals. I aspire to make Presidents Cup, I aspire to make the TOUR Championship, I aspire to win multiple times in the '18-'19 season. A major's still on my list. Those are all goals for me and I think this will help leapfrog that. That confidence because of winning a tournament hopefully propels me to a great '19.

**Q. Matt, last year, did you ever kind of lose confidence in yourself?**

**MATT KUCHAR:** I was hugely frustrated at times last year. Got off to a somewhat slow start and I don't know if I pressed, but I had been several years where missing cuts just wasn't really in my vocabulary and missed more than may share last year, which is -- it is really frustrating as a professional golfer to be told after Friday afternoon you're no longer welcome back. It's a tough part of our game, but I've been fortunate that I turned myself into

a player who didn't miss cuts, who contended a lot, who played a lot of really good, high quality golf.

Last year I felt like there was a lot of good that was going on and yet my results weren't good and were based on results, so thankfully had a good support team; my wife, instructor kind of continued pushing me hard, making me realize I did have a lot of good things going on, just wasn't piecing everything together. It gets hard to stay positive at points where you're not doing what you're accustomed to doing.

It was a big help to have my wife, my swing instructor, Chris O'Connell, kind of continue to push me along.

**Q. (Question about confidence.)**

**MATT KUCHAR:** Yeah, I wish there was many more tournaments to go straightaway. I actually go next week to the Australian Open, then to World Cup. Looking forward to both those events, hoping to continue the good play. But then there's a pretty big break for me until the Tournament of Champions, so I will hopefully be on good form. I'm very excited about the stint in Hawaii, having two weeks to start my year off with the Tournament of Champions and the Sony Open and hope to continue the good form.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** You mentioned going to Australia. You played down there many times, you've played around the world. What do you particularly like about playing in Australia?

**MATT KUCHAR:** It's a wonderful country with great people. They love their golf, love their sport. Golf is fantastic. They're always very supportive.

For two weeks to get to play a national championship, the Australian Open, is something I'm very, very excited to do. And then World Cup's a great event. I am really excited, back to a fun format. I'm partnering with Kyle Stanley. I was able to win a few years back with Gary Woodland. To think of the great history that the World Cup has, the likes of Arnold and Jack have paired up and won it, Tiger and Duval have won it, Davis Love and Fred Couples have won numerous times. It's rich with history and one I'm really excited about playing both those events.

**Q. Matt, this year things seem to be heating up in terms of the number of tournaments and the fact of the change of dates, to press more. The season ends about a month shorter than previous years. As a result, (inaudible) unless they skip several tournaments through the course of the year. Have you made up your mind yet on which ones you might want to skip, or do you plan on playing them all?**

**MATT KUCHAR:** I think it's tricky for everybody, the new schedule. I think particularly with the veterans, everybody's used to a certain routine and we typically look at the major championships and try to make sure we gear ourselves to being on our best form for those majors.

But we've come to find that comfort level with so many of the great PGA TOUR events and now that they are -- there's a bit of a shuffling with the entire schedule, the entire year. I think everybody's going to have to adapt and make some changes. It's a tricky thing. It's going to be tricky for me, I think it's going to be tricky for everybody to figure out which tournaments they may add, which tournaments they may drop just because the schedule is so different next year.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**MATT KUCHAR:** No, I am not. I'm awfully glad that Kapalua's back on the list, that's a highlight. I will be adding that one to my schedule.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Enjoy the victory, Matt. We appreciate you being gracious with your time.

**MATT KUCHAR:** Thank you very much. Thanks for coming out, guys.