



DUSTIN JOHNSON

HALEY PETERSON: We would like to welcome Dustin Johnson here to the media room at the 3M Open.

Dustin, you're going to be making your second start this week. Just tell us a little bit about why you added this back to your schedule and what you've seen throughout the course so far this week.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, the golf course is good. I really liked it last year. Obviously I ended up only playing one round, but it's a golf course that I felt like it fit my game pretty well. I enjoyed playing it. Yeah, and it kind of worked in the schedule for me this year. I needed to add another event and this one worked out.

HALEY PETERSON: Six top-10s so far this season and coming off a T-8 finish at The Open. Just tell us how you're feeling about your game coming into this week.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I'm starting to see -- things are starting to turn around a little bit. I felt like I haven't had a great season so far, but I feel like the game, it's starting to come back into form. I'm starting to see a lot more consistency with the game, starting to play a little bit better. Other than last week, had a little seven-hole stretch there in the third round where I just made a lot of easy bogeys, just hit the ball in the wrong spots. Other than that, I felt like I played really solid all week and played pretty well other than those few holes.

Yeah, I'm pleased where the game's at and pleased with the stuff that I'm seeing so far.

Q. What were your memories from last year, however brief they were, and did you feel any need when you were looking at your schedule to come back and let the fans get a little longer look at you?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, last year there wasn't any fans, but yeah, it was a place, like I said, I like the golf course, it's in perfect condition. I enjoyed playing it last year, so yeah, I wanted to come back and play again. Obviously we only played one round, but yeah, I'm looking forward to it this year. Worked out where it fit the schedule and yeah, I'm looking forward to a good week. I feel like the game's in really good form right now and I've liked what I've seen so far the last couple days practicing.

Q. Dustin, when you look back a year ago at this time, you won at Travelers but you were kind of looking for more consistency in your game and all of a sudden you went on this great tear that led to a FedExCup and a green jacket. Do you see any similarities in the rhythm to this season for you?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, you know, the game's starting to come back into form. I feel like, you know, I've been driving it pretty well. Not as well as I was obviously when I was playing really good last season for that really long stretch, but starting to drive it better, seeing consistency with the shots and misses. You know, I feel like the iron and wedge play is what I just haven't been as sharp with. That's starting to come around. Last week I felt like I hit a lot of really good shots, controlled the ball really well. So yeah, I'm starting to see a lot of similarities, and obviously that's the form I'm trying to get back to where I felt like I had a chance to win every single week I teed it up. I feel like that's starting to get back into that form.

Q. When you look back at that run, what do you think was the biggest spark to it?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Good question. I really don't know. I was working hard on the game and got to where it felt like I was seeing just the same things every day, feeling the same kind of things in my swing and the same kind of shots, just a lot of consistency with everything that I was doing.

Q. Dustin, back at the 3M and even the week before that it didn't look like the game was really close even and literally your run started like right after this. Even at the 3M did you feel like you were close or did something click at some point, maybe at the tournament or maybe just heading into the next one, because that really did kind of start your unprecedented run?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, it was -- even though I played the week before, I played terrible. Even here, you know, it wasn't -- didn't play that bad, I was just making way too many mistakes. Then yeah, definitely from here I went home and practiced and got the game in good form. Yeah, obviously went on a great run there. I feel like the game is really close to doing that again. Like I said, starting to see a lot more consistency with the shots and the swings and just controlling the golf ball a lot better.

Q. We've seen a lot of the top guys who have played this come back to this tournament to play it again. What is it about this tournament do you think that maybe once guys experience it, they want to come play it again?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, 3M does a great job with setting up the tournament. They take care of us very well. The golf course is good. The golf course is really good. It's in very good condition. So anytime you've got a golf course like this with the grass is perfect, greens are good, it's fun to play.

Q. DJ, just curious, do you have to get anything out of your system golf-wise after playing links golf?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: No. I mean, I try not to change the way I play golf. Even been going over there, you just hit different kind of shots. You still -- even playing links golf, you've still

got to hit your numbers. You're always trying to land it in a specific spot or hit it a certain distance. No, I didn't have to change anything. Just the ground's a little softer.

Q. Dustin, hey, you said that the course is in great condition. What kind of makes or what holes are kind of tough in your mind at the TPC Twin Cities? What holes are kind of difficult?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I mean, I don't know. I mean, I know the course, obviously I played it a few times, but there's a few holes where off the tee obviously you've got to hit some really good shots, good drives off the tee. I feel like if I can drive it well here, I can definitely shoot some good scores. No. 2's a good hole, good driving hole. The par 3s I think are really good.

Yeah, I mean, for me it's all about off the tee because there is enough rough to where you don't want to play out of it, and you have the greens, they have enough -- there's enough slope and there's quadrants to them so you definitely want to be coming out of the fairway so you can control the golf ball. I think off the tee is where it gets kind of tough. There's a lot of really good driving holes, but like I said, if you drive it in the fairway, you can shoot some good scores.

Q. And how do you kind of mentally prepare for this upcoming tournament after finishing top-10 at a major, at The Open Championship, which is across the pond?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, I mean, most important just to make sure you're rested. For me, I took Monday off and just rested just to kind of get back on this time zone, get the body feeling good again after a long flight. Yeah, I mean, mentally I'm in a good place. I feel like the game's in good form, so I'm looking forward to a good week.

Q. Dustin, can you take me back to last year and when you started feeling the injury and your decision to withdraw?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: That was a long time ago. Yeah, it just -- obviously I was just coming off of, I think we played at Muirfield the week before here, then came up here. Yeah, just wasn't feeling good. The back was stiff, so it was tough for me to swing the way I wanted to. Obviously was struggling a little bit. So went home, rested, got worked on and obviously that was when I started playing really well after this.

Q. Also, I'm watching the Wayne Gretzky Master Class on the Athlete's Mindset. I'm wondering if you've watched that.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I've not watched it yet, but I will.

Q. How has he helped you? What has he done to aid you in how you go about doing your business?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Obviously anytime you get to spend a lot of time with the greatest

player -- he's the greatest hockey player to ever play the sport and will be forever. I don't think anyone will ever come close to being as good as he was and dominating as much as he did. Anytime you get to spend time with him, listen to the way they did things and how he still does things now, it definitely helps. Anytime I can learn, even if it's a little thing from him, obviously I'm always listening when he's talking because he's the GOAT. I'm just fortunate enough I get to spend a lot of time with him.

Q. Can you share one specific example?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Just the way he goes about things. Listening to the stories of how hard he used to work, he worked harder than everyone else. Obviously he had a lot of talent and all that, but he put in the work. Just because you have the talent doesn't mean you're going to be good unless you put in the work and you work as hard if not harder than everyone else.

Q. That changed the way you work at all?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah. I mean, absolutely. I feel like over the past five or six years I've definitely kind of stepped up the way I go about things, how I work and training on and off the golf course. Yeah, it's definitely been an influence and it's definitely helped.

Q. Dustin, I'm just curious now that this is going to be your second time at this tournament, what's kind of the 30,000-foot view of the 3M Open from players on Tour? What's kind of the national perception of the tournament? And what will it be like to have all the fans back this year after not having any at it last year?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, I think it's going to be great to have the fans back. 3M, they do a great job hosting the event, they really take care of the players and they put on a good event. Obviously last year there was no fans, but I'm sure the fan experience is great. The golf course is really good. I mean, it's going to be a really good tournament.

Q. Dustin, the times you've come close at majors and haven't won, do you prefer to get out and play the next week or would you rather have a week off to let your mind and body heal and recover?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: It just depends. If I'm scheduled to play the next week, yeah, I want to play. If I'm not, then I go home. It just all depends on what's on my schedule. It doesn't matter either way. I like to play well, so if I'm playing good, yeah, I want to play, but if I'm not scheduled to play, that's fine, too.

HALEY PETERSON: All right. That's all the questions we have. Thank you, Dustin, for taking the time to join us and good luck this week.