

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
January 28, 2022

JON RAHM (-13)



Q. Jon, it didn't look very easy out there from the scores, but what were you proudest Of that you were able to kind of keep fighting and hold yourself to basically a draw against the course?

JON RAHM: I played great, I think. I feel like I played a lot better than the score shows. There was only two holes where I struggled and probably gave a couple too many back. Today's one of those days that happened at Torrey Pines South, played great golf but I just couldn't take the opportunities and it's going to be hard to shoot low. A lot of putts out there on that back nine, starting on 6, that I thought I hit good, either misread or it could be just the poa annua greens that do some funky stuff late in the afternoon. I grew up on greens like this so I know them. I got mad, I got frustrated, but I never lost hope.

And I think it was on 14 when I hit a great putt and it didn't go in, I told Adam, let's try to make two birdies coming in, let's finish the round under par, which anytime you beat the South course, it's a great course, no matter how it happens. I feel like coming down the stretch that gave me a little bit of something else to play for instead of thinking about the score and I played great golf on those last four holes.

Q. You've got to feel encouraged that you're one back, you're like right there.

JON RAHM: Yeah.

Q. Given the fact that you haven't had anything working your way, you haven't had the best breaks --

JON RAHM: Yeah.

Q. -- you still have one day left and you're only one back?

JON RAHM: I feel a little bit like I did at the U.S. Open, right? The U.S. Open third round wasn't my best. I think I finished one over par and I was happy because it was a U.S. Open, but I know it could have been better. I played good golf and I was feeling good, but still I knew that if things start clicking, that Sunday round's going to be good, and I feel the same way. Every part of the game feels good, it just hasn't shown or manifested on the golf course. And I haven't hit the shots the way I wanted to, but everything does feel good and it's just a matter of happening. Sometimes it's one swing, one shot, one moment that tips the scales towards me. Hopefully I can get off to a good start like I did today, hit some good tee shots, good shots into the greens, maybe make a couple putts and who knows what can happen.

Q. Just want to take your mind off golf for a second. If Rafa Nadal wins tonight, it's 21 Grand Slams. What are your thoughts on that?

JON RAHM: Well, he's one of my idols. I don't know how many Spain has, but if he were to win, to be the undisputed greatest of all time at a sport is very unique. 21 Grand Slams. When he started, I think it was still Pete Sampras who was at 14. They shattered all records. It's really, really impressive what he keeps doing, how he perseveres through injuries. Even when he hasn't had his best years, he keeps coming back and playing the way he does. Especially in Australia, where I can imagine he really wants to win because he's only won once there and has had many chances and it's a surface that hasn't given him let's say the best chance. I'm sending him the best of luck and hopefully he gets it done. It would be something wonderful to wake up to and hopefully I can do my part as well.

Q. Have you ever had any conversations with him?

JON RAHM: Oh, yeah.

Q. Picked his brain?

JON RAHM: I got lucky enough to play a round of golf with him and then I've gone to a few tennis events and we've met afterwards. He is an avid golf fan. He plays a lot of golf, a lot, a lot, a lot of golf. He's one of those that in between tournament days, he's playing golf, or before and after he might be playing golf. He's an absolute nut. I know his passions are tennis, golf and Real Madrid. Everywhere he goes, he needs to make sure he can watch Real Madrid, make sure he can play golf and obviously tennis is taken care of.

Like I said, he's a great example for a lot of us. His attitude towards tennis, it's really incredible. His determination and his great is unmatched on the court. There's a lot to learn from Rafa Nadal.