

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
December 7, 2022



MAX HOMA
KEVIN KISNER

MARK WILLIAMS: Welcome Max Homa and Kevin Kisner to the QBE Shootout 2022. Got the band back together after last year. Just played the pro-am, what's the thoughts on the golf course after seeing it today?

MAX HOMA: Oh, man, I don't know, I just felt the vibes from last Sunday a year ago. We played so well and got robbed, so I felt like right when I stepped foot back on this place, I was like this is our year.

KEVIN KISNER: This is our year, baby.

The golf course is in really good condition. I was pretty amazed you don't see any damage from the hurricane. There's some grainy chips so I'll be putting a few of those when Max is going second, I'll let him chip second on those. Hopefully he hits all the greens and then I can just putt and I don't have to worry about that part.

MAX HOMA: That's the plan.

MARK WILLIAMS: This is a little more relaxed time of the year, but you guys just came from the Bahamas, both competed there. How would you assess your form coming into this week?

KEVIN KISNER: Well, I finished last, so I'm struggling there so Max better play really well this week.

No, last week was tough. It looked like a major broke out after two days and somehow we shot the grass off the place with mud on our golf balls on Saturday. It was an interesting week down there at Bahamas, always fun making fun of Tiger when he's around. Hopefully I knocked all the rust off last week and I'm ready to go this week.

MAX HOMA: Kiz never place two bad tournaments in a row, so I was glad he knocked one out when I was playing against him and now we can be teammates and glide back towards the top of the leaderboard instead of the other way around.

Yeah, last week, if we would have flipped the thing upside down, we would have had a pretty good team week.

KEVIN KISNER: Would've been right there.



MAX HOMA: But yeah, this course, obviously a lot different. Last week was tough. I felt like a lot of the guys like me and I think -- I don't know how you played on Friday, but when it was hard, just shot yourself out of the golf tournament. This week we'll have a little better weather, have a little bit of help.

Yeah, I'm with Kiz, the course is in great shape. I was shocked after all the news we had heard about this area. Obviously a lot of sad damage has been done, but the golf course is in tremendous shape.

Q. There's three different formats here. Do you have a preference for any of the three, the scramble, modified alternate shot or four-ball?

MAX HOMA: I like modified alternate shot because it's kind of funny, just make your partner mad.

KEVIN KISNER: Yeah, you just have to laugh it off in that format so you can just say, "Your turn, enjoy that shot now, buddy." It's a more stressful day, but you get to laugh at each other because we both want to do well for the other person and when it doesn't work out, it's quite hilarious.

MAX HOMA: Yeah, Kev told me last year in the practice round, "Do not hit it left on 17 on your second shot," and on alternate shot day last year, he hit the fairway, I went for the green on my second in my and pulled it. While it's he in the air, he said, "I told you one thing, one thing."

KEVIN KISNER: And we made birdie.

MAX HOMA: And we made birdie.

MARK WILLIAMS: You obviously see each other's games when you're playing, but when you're playing together like this, what do you admire about each other's games, one specific thing that you like about each other's games?

KEVIN KISNER: I love the way Max hits the golf ball. I think he's got a beautiful golf swing and great tempo and rhythm all day no matter how difficult or easy the shot is. I think that's admirable for any pro. I like to hurry up and hit the hard ones sooner. I watch his rhythm all day. I hit first because he's a better ball-striker than me and hopefully he hits the greens and I can make all the putts.

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it's fun playing with Kev. Obviously he's a tremendous putter, but Kev's kind of like the epitome of the true golfer, he's good at every aspect of the game. These days obviously, these young kids come in and hit it 19 miles, so it's always nice to watch somebody kind of plot their way around a golf course. Whether it's here, in the majors, at the WGC Match Play that Kiz dominates, it's nice to just watch somebody play true kind of all around great golf. I know I learn watching him play and last year he was kind enough to help



me with my putting. There's a lot to learn, he's so much older, he's got so much wisdom as well, so that's also been a nice added bonus.

MARK WILLIAMS: Obviously you guys were a team here last year as mentioned, but you spent a good solid week together in Quail Hollow for the Presidents Cup on the U.S. team. Was there something that you might have learned about each other that you didn't know before, not sort of golf related but something else? Was there anything that stood out to you about that week that you were kind of surprised about your teammate?

MAX HOMA: Not really. I did get nervous when I saw he was playing with Cam Young because I realized that I can't live up to that, so that was a bummer.

But no, I don't think so. I think Kev's done a great job of being very transparent with all the players out here. He is who he seems like he is and that's really admirable and cool.

So yeah, it was just cool to be on a team with him and with all the other guys and just bond, because we compete against each other all the time, but to be able to hang out with the best players in the world is awesome.

KEVIN KISNER: I had a good time watching Max be so excited to be on the team and represent the country, and for him to shine, like he played incredible up there all week so that was cool. Then to see his wife was nine months pregnant and see how excited he was about being a dad, what is that, about 10 days, two weeks after that? I kept FaceTiming him on a Saturday when he wouldn't answer and I was getting pissed and I didn't know why he wasn't answering. He's like, "All right, bro, Lacey's in labor." I was like, "Oh, that's why you haven't answered."

MAX HOMA: It was like midnight first time we got there and Kev's like, "Hey, my buddy's got something to say," and he's telling me I'm cheap because I got Elijah Craig as a gift for the Presidents Cup team members." I was like, "Hey, so I'm like currently watching Lacey push. How about we wait until tomorrow?"

Q. What is the story behind the friendship, where'd you kind of first hit it off? And did you crunch the analytics to make this team or is it just based on having fun?

MAX HOMA: Just a couple Dawgs.

KEVIN KISNER: Go Dawgs.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MAX HOMA: Bandwagon on Kiz, I'm just trying to bandwagon my way to the top of the QBE leaderboard at this point.

No, I always got along with Kiz. He's been really good to all the younger guys on Tour. Like I



said, he's always himself and I think a lot of us appreciate that. It's a pretty intimidating thing to do when you're a kid and you turn pro. If someone's a year older than you to come out and feel like you're in high school again, trying to make friends, so Kiz has always been real good to all of us. So it was an honor that he agreed to do this not only once but twice.

KEVIN KISNER: I just look for somebody to hit all the fairways and greens in this event, so I got the perfect guy.

Q. And Max, it was a big 2022 for you. What would 2023 have to happen in that year to kind of top this year after all that's happened?

MAX HOMA: Oh, man, twins, got to double up everything, so four wins, two kids. Not sure how that one's going to work, Lacey's going to be stoked about that one.

I don't know, I finally played well in one major last year but haven't really put myself in the mix too much. I'd really enjoy doing that, playing a little bit -- I kind of backed my way into a decent finish at THE PLAYERS last year, so I'd like to be in the mix in those events. Whether I win or not, I think that would be a good learning experience.

But I'm happy where my game was obviously last year and I'm excited about what I've been working on. I'm not really too worried about the, I guess, wins and this and that, I think they come, but like the little goals and big goals kind of have stayed the same. I wanted to play the Presidents Cup last year, I'd love to play the Ryder Cup this year, but that all just comes with sticking to what I've been doing.

Q. And then one of those was playing with Tiger at St. Andrews. What's the story from those two days that you're going to tell your grandkids, let's say?

MAX HOMA: I got a bunch. It was a six-and-a-half-hour round that day on Thursday and I was talking to Matt Fitzpatrick about it and we were laughing. On the 14th hole as we were waived up into the fairway, which I had never seen before, I was like this would be really brutal if we weren't playing with Tiger, but it feels kind of cool. And when we had one of those long waits on 9, Tiger came up to me and asked me how many times I had won and I said four. I won again since then obviously.

KEVIN KISNER: You told me you had Napa before --

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I did.

He came up to me, asked me how many I had won, I said four. Made a joke about flexing on him with all my wins, only 78 more to go to pass him, and he very seriously said, "You should have a lot more." So kind of don't brag about that one and that was pretty cool, so I liked that.

Q. Max you talked about last year, you won in September. So what has been



working?

MAX HOMA: The ball's going in the hole faster than a lot of the other guys some of these weeks. I drove it great last year. I've always been a pretty good ball-striker, so when I drive it well, get a lot of opportunities. And the putting really came around.

Honestly, after this event last year with some help from Kiz, started to get an understanding of what I should be working on. Started working with Phil Kenyon because of that and I had a consistent putting year.

So I just felt like last year for the first time the game felt the most complete it's felt. Again, it's nice to win. I can't guarantee I'm going to win every year twice a year, but when you keep doing all those things, you put yourself in a spot where you're at least in the mix here and there, and I've been lucky enough to finish those off.

Yeah, so it's just been all around good golf. You watch like the best at it, seems like it's Jon Rahm every year, he's just not bad at anything. That's kind of what you would strive for in a way out here.

Q. And for both of you, I think most people would think you take the greatest golfers in the world, you put any two together, that's going to work. Is it more than that? Is there some kind of chemistry or connection that you think a pairing, doesn't matter if they're the best two in the world, that could be vulnerable if somebody else has just kind of something else there?

KEVIN KISNER: Yeah, definitely there's a chemistry. You saw Tiger and Phil in the Ryder Cup, right?

MAX HOMA: I was just thinking...

KEVIN KISNER: I mean, doesn't really work. They were playing the best golf of all time and they got smoked.

You've got to appreciate each other, appreciate each other's game and you've got to want to be in each other's company because if you don't want to be in each other's company, it's a long time together.

So yeah, I think you definitely always strive to be a better partner to your buddy, but it's a lot of fun when you enjoy being around him and enjoy playing with him.

MAX HOMA: Yeah, especially when you talk about like alternate shot days. If somebody misses a putt, being able to look at the other one, kind of laugh and say, "All right, knock it in." Everybody knows how hard this game is, we all know how hard this game is, you're going to hit bad shots. I think if you don't have good team chemistry, don't get along, you feel too much pressure to never make a mistake, which is impossible, and then when you do you



get down on yourself. So I think there is something to having some kind of relationship where you know the other dude's trying their best and you're not going to get on him or get on yourself if you make a mistake.

Q. I know you both played before, Kiz you played more times than Max, but just this year, not having Greg here is a different feeling, a little weird?

KEVIN KISNER: Haven't noticed yet, but I'll let you know if that changes.

MAX HOMA: I haven't been here long enough to know if it's weird.

Q. Max, yesterday we saw you were working on the forehead tan. Just wanted to see if we have an update there?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it's as white as this hat, so didn't work.

KEVIN KISNER: We're going to have to go to the tanning bed later. Team tanning bed visit, just foreheads.

Q. Kevin just wanted to ask you about found out Georgia's playing Ohio State.

KEVIN KISNER: Yep.

Q. Thoughts, feelings, opinions?

KEVIN KISNER: Not concerned with those guys. Go Dawgs.

MAX HOMA: Go Dawgs.

MARK WILLIAMS: Thanks, gentlemen. We appreciate your time.

