

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 26, 2023



JON RAHM (-4)

Q. Jon, what would you say was kind of the switch that flipped with five holes to play that allowed you to kind of finish with a flourish?

JON RAHM: It was nothing special. I knew that's probably in any given day the most scorable part of the golf course. Holes 5 through 9 with or without wind is where you can take advantage of the course. Luckily I've been hitting it really good. There's no difference between those holes or any other five, four holes you can pick throughout the round, it's just kind of guessed with the wind right in all of them. I think maybe I was a little more aggressive after that second shot on 6 and got in the mentality of making birdies instead of being a little tentative, which is easy to do when it's blowing as hard as it was blowing today.

Q. Is there any point that the cutline comes into your mind at all?

JON RAHM: No. The goal is to win. It would have come into mind maybe in the last few holes had I been even par. I knew, like I said, I knew going into 5 through 9 to take care of the par 5s, take care of the short par-4 7, everything would be all right. I was playing with the mindset of catching up to the leaders as much as possible, that's it.

Q. How do you compare the conditions today as opposed to yesterday?

JON RAHM: Yesterday was very easy, today was very hard. That's about as -- can't tell you much else honestly. It's never easy out here on either one of the courses, especially the South, and when you get poa annua bumpy greens with this wind, it can be a bit of a nightmare, so glad I made a few.

Q. You have the low round of the day so far, at least tied to it. How good did your round feel?

JON RAHM: Very good. I think the most impressive part was I missed three fairways and I was -- in those three, one, I was a foot from the fairway and the other two maybe six feet combined, that was the most impressive part. That's what allowed me to play such a good round of golf. It was really good ball-striking. And again, I know I had that four-hole stretch where I shot 5 under, but there was a lot of great holes out there that I made a lot of good swings that didn't get rewarded and that's how it goes when you get conditions like this.

Q. Was there anything exhausting about such a quick turnaround after winning and playing a bunch and then coming here?

JON RAHM: Yeah, everything. Yeah, I don't think having a pro-am on a Tuesday after a

tournament was the wisest decision, but you have to deal with it. It's what it is .

Q. Jon, can you think of a couple examples out there of how the wind was affecting you and the decision-making process, things like that?

JON RAHM: I honestly didn't really play much different strategy-wise. Out here the greens are usually very receptive so I'm going to hit driver as much as I can pretty much anywhere and that's what I did today.

Obviously start lines are very different. With those left-to-right winds coming down the stretch, ball started very far left compared to the right-to-left wind we're used to sometimes. 11 we're thinking about hitting close to the green, I piped a drive and I had 80 yards to the pin today. Things changed a little bit, but club selection obviously is different and maybe how aggressive you can get is different because the wind obviously can affect it many different ways, but it didn't change the way I approached the golf course.

Q. Being so elevated on the 15th tee, the par 3, how was that today?

JON RAHM: It was one of the toughest because we know it's down off the left. You're protected by some trees, so you can't really tell exactly how much it's affecting it. It's easy to just come up short right, which is the safe play, right, which is what me and Justin did. Being a little bit tentative on that shot is nothing bad because if you go long left, you're in a lot of trouble. That one's difficult. It's usually hard because it's into the wind, but long's not really in play, right, into the wind. Today, today you're one bad swing away from making a pretty high number on the hole.

Q. Jon, which shot did you see the highlight of that you kind of got excited on?

JON RAHM: Second shot on 5, 180 meters. And thank God I learned from my mistake going what would be 18 because the compass said and based on what had happened all day, the wind was down off the left and I hit my shot and it was in off the left. That's how I ended up short right. We got to the hole, it seemed like it was supposed to be helping but it wasn't really. And you're starting the ball so far left that it's mainly into the wind. It's usually more of a soft 6-iron. And if the conversation's on camera, I asked Adam, Are you OK if I take a little bit off of it, and he said, No, it's all of it. And that's where a great caddie comes into play. I hit exactly the shot we thought and gave myself an amazing chance for eagle.

Q. Did you have a number in mind that you wanted to shoot today?

JON RAHM: No. God, anything in the 60s would have been amazing. What I shot today, man, I'm going to be skipping out of the golf course today because it's a great round of golf.