

## DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

### PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW

June 21, 2023



### JOEY SINDELAR

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**Q. How great is it to be back here? You've got such an amazing career, nearly 700 regular Tour starts, nearly 300 on the Champions Tour. Just how good is life for Joey Sindelar these days?**

**JOEY SINDELAR:** Awesome. And my boys reminded me of that, actually 699. Dad, just get in tournaments. I said no, no, they're doing something I never could do.

It's awesome, particularly being here. You know, as I like to witness, a lot of guys don't do well at their hometown tournaments. There's a lot going on. There's extra tickets, there's functions, there's stuff here with friends that you don't get to see the rest of the year. It can become very complicated. And so for me and I think most who have covered me, you realize how behind me these folks are. This is the county -- this is the several-county county fair for us around here in all the greatest ways.

They've supported me, and I think they've actually talked me into it because my performance here is -- well, with two wins, it's more than I've ever won anything else in two out of the seven, but also lots of other top-10s and stuff, so it works for me.

But one of the things I do like to say is it's very fun when you get to be inside the ropes. You look around and wave to people occasionally and seeing which relatives are there, and when it's birdie-birdie-birdie, everybody's just marching. And man, you slap one in the water for a bogey or a double and everybody's chin goes down and walking gets a little slower.

Once I get past my own personal anger for slapping one in the water, it's hysterical to watch because they're living it with me. I think again, back to that, I think they've talked me into it and I've loved it, 40 years' worth, it's been a blast.

**Q. How is your game right now?**

**JOEY SINDELAR:** I don't know. I haven't played a round of golf since the last day of Pebble in September. I've got some arthritic issues which are -- we've decided are taking me away from the game. I just can't -- I don't have any flexibility. This one particular kind of arthritis I have called DISH hardens ligaments and I can't lead with my lower body and I can't stretch. So if it gets cold, like if we're out there and a cold front goes through, I might as well just walk in. Or if there's like two or three groups on a par-5 tee waiting, for years I would say, aren't you guys really stiff? This is back through the teens. What are you talking about, it's nice and warm out here. I'd have like three clubs out trying to swing and loosen up.



Finally figured out it was that. It's not particularly damaging except for golf. Walking around as a human being and going to pick up a slice of pizza or something, nothing hurts. Can't turn, can't -- so a driver -- interestingly, I've become one of my best driver of my whole career, but the ball's up in the air quite a ways and I can hang back and tilt and be stiff and hit good, match the driver to those statistics.

But boy, if you get a long iron off the deck or a 6-iron out of a divot or something like that, I can't stay in my posture anymore. For two years tried to work -- Amanda is a physical therapist, my wife, and we tried to work around it and find different ways. The inflexibility just became too much.

So I will from now on become part of this tournament group. They invited me aboard and I'm here to do whatever they would like me to do, meeting sponsors, saying hello to old friends here and having fun, helping them whatever I can do, so that makes me very happy.

**Q. Talking about last night, obviously you guys with the pro-am, choosing each other, you obviously got matched with a New York state champion, fellow Section 4 golfer.**

**JOEY SINDELAR:** Yeah, wow.

**Q. What's that going to be like?**

**JOEY SINDELAR:** Really cool to spend the day with Dante and his friends, and of course they're friends with the Karedes family, who of course John runs the deal here.

I can't wait. They learned a different game with different equipment than we ever did. So if I can remember, it will be fun to compare what he can do three generations later. Are generations 10s or 20s? I don't even know. So I'm 65, he's what, 18? I don't know. They learned something very different with equipment that we didn't know and I'm sure I'm going to be going, holy cow, I wish I could do that. So I can't wait.

**Q. Just how excited are you to be back at DSGO once again and just see old friends and be back in this golf environment?**

**JOEY SINDELAR:** Well, I mean, I'm very, very happy. Just came from a function at the Discovery Center honoring Tim Myers and Dick's Sporting Goods with everything they do both corporate and the tournament. What an amazing facility that is over there, and then they added all that stuff, incredible. And it's what they do, it's what they do all the time.

This golf course is in stunning -- I mean, I haven't been out there yet, but I know based upon the last bunch of years and with the weather we've had, it should be awesome. Walked around the putting green, go holy cow, of course it's awesome.



And again, it will be lots of friends and lots of laughs and great memories.

**Q. Speaking of that, when you're out on this course, what kind of memories do you think of? What are some of your favorite memories out here at Em-Joie?**

**JOEY SINDELAR:** Well, thank you. Chronologically, hole-in-one out there on 14 a hundred thousand years ago. To go from -- but I still remember the feelings because I went from one down, Mike Reid was leading by one and he was in the group ahead of me and he bogeyed it. You know, that's a tough par 3. It was a front right pin, he just got in the rough pretty close to the pin. By the time I hit I was tied and then dunked it, so I went from one down to two up in a very quick time.

But I can remember shaking on that next tee because there were some hard holes coming in. There was water and there's out-of-bounds and there's stuff. You know, when you haven't won very much or at all, these things creep in. Even with two up with four to play, it was very nerve wracking and I'll never forget those feelings.

Of course, that's when the Porta Potties were lined up along that left cart path and half the people said, you know, we missed it, we were in the Porta Potty, and the other half said, oh, there were a hundred thousand people out there that day. I'm thinking, I don't think there were a hundred thousand people, but it sure felt like it, it was a loud roar.

Other things I remember, the second time I won with Slu in the last group, a twosome, I think I started the day seven up, seven shots ahead. Actually, the pin was back left on 1, which is very close to that water, and I'm back at the top of the hill and I was aiming out to the right in the middle of the green and I pulled it, which is why you aim to the right, and pulled it right at the pin and birdied. So I was eight shots up with 17 to play.

And Jeff Sluman played one of the best rounds of golf I have ever seen. Back then we were rolling 3-woods onto the fronts of these par 5s, not flying them on with 5-irons like they do now. He absolutely could have beat me. If he got just a couple of ordinary putts to go in from eight up with 17 to go, he could have ruined my whole day, but he was a nice enough gentlemen to not do that and got away with it.

So those are two of the ones for me.

