

ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW

June 27, 2023



GORDON SARGENT

JACK RYAN: We'll welcome Gordon Sargent into the interview room at the Rocket Mortgage Classic. Gordon's making his third start on the PGA TOUR this season and first outside of a major.

Gordon, if we can just get an opening comment from you on what it means to be here playing in the Rocket Mortgage Classic on a sponsor exemption.

GORDON SARGENT: Yeah, like you said, first event outside of a major. Excited to be in Detroit, everyone seems to be really welcoming and excited to have me here, so looking forward to getting the week started. Yeah, I've played the back nine today and really enjoyed the course, so it's going to be a fun week.

JACK RYAN: Obviously you're aware of the 16 points you've accumulated so far through PGA TOUR University and what it's going to take for you to earn a PGA TOUR card. What's kind of your mindset as you approach these next couple of weeks and hope to achieve that goal?

GORDON SARGENT: Yeah, I feel like if you play just good golf and the golf that you know you're capable of, then you're going to reach those 20 points without having to think about it too much.

Yeah, it was nice to kind of get some confidence playing in the U.S. Open a few weeks ago. Yeah, just go out here, obviously as the week goes on you may readjust your goals a little bit, but I know if I play good golf and do what I'm capable of, then hopefully hit those 20 points as soon as possible.

JACK RYAN: Any players on Tour that you've kind of reached out to, whether it be this week or the week of the major, just to kind of get some advice and things like that?

GORDON SARGENT: Yeah, Justin Thomas has been really good to me. Played a practice round with him at Augusta and at L.A. Yeah, just kind of getting his advice and seeing how he does things has been really important to me.

Then there's just been a handful of guys that reached out if I ever need help, they've wanted to give it to me. Webb Simpson would be another one. Yeah, like it's just been so cool to see that like even though it's an individual sport, everyone's out there to kind of help you a little bit, too.



Q. You talked about the two majors that you have played in. What is the different type of mindset that you have coming here? Is there any comparisons that you can take away from those experiences?

GORDON SARGENT: I mean, yeah, obviously I would have loved to have played some other -- like I was playing at Augusta for the first time and your first pro event was nerve wracking. I feel like the U.S. Open was a little less nerve wracking, so it's nice to kind of get some starts under your belt.

I don't think that the mindset's much different. Obviously you kind of put a little bit more pressure on yourself in a major to play well, but you're still getting the best players in the world come to each event. So it will be a little different atmosphere, maybe not so like intense, which is nice to kind of be able to play a little bit more loose and just kind of see some fans out there that are good to you.

I don't think it's necessarily like a different mindset as what you're trying to play this week. Obviously you're just trying to play good golf and get the ball in the hole in as lease strokes as possible. Yeah, it would be cool to kind of see what like playing at Augusta and out in L.A., it's kind of different than what pro golf is usually like. It's kind of like we say in college when we go down to Cabo for an event, college golf's not like that for every single event. Yeah, see what the PGA TOUR and what kind of the main events are like, it will be a fun week.

Q. Gordon, how does a course like this where you can kind of blast away with your driver kind of fit into your style of play? And do you prefer easier scoring courses like you're going to see this week or more difficult scoring, kind of grind-fests?

GORDON SARGENT: I'll answer the first part. Yeah, I've just played the back nine so far and it seems like there's some bunkers where if the wind's right, you can cover them with driver and get some scoring clubs in your hand, but it's also obviously pretty tree-lined, you can get kind of blocked out.

I think if you're driving it well, then there's a lot of holes where you can kind of push it up there and get yourself in really good position, so that's where the driver's going to come into use. And if it stays this soft, kind of I guess makes the fairways a little wider just knowing it's not going to release as much.

Yeah, so far I feel like you can hit a lot of drivers out there, and tried to do that today. I feel like that's my game plan so far.

And then, sorry, what was the second part?

Oh, it kind of depends on what your game is that week, but I would prefer a little bit tougher scoring just because like it's going to really separate who's playing the best at the time. But



there's obviously going to be weeks where you have a little bit softer greens and more wedges in your hand but you're still going to have to be dialed in on that aspect of your game to put up some good scores.

Q. Gordon, not a lot of rest since the NCAA Championships for you, right to the Arnold Palmer Cup, the U.S. Open and then here this week in Michigan. How do you stay fresh and ready for these opportunities that are presented to you over the course of the coming weeks?

GORDON SARGENT: Yeah, you kind of think about it like the better golf you play, the more golf you're going to play. So kind of using it as like not necessarily motivation, but also like confidence knowing that like the more golf you're playing, the better you're playing.

Like you said, played my U.S. Open qualifier, then went straight to Pittsburgh for the Palmer Cup and then went straight to L.A. I think there's kind of that adrenaline aspect, just like traveling to some cool places and playing golf is fun.

But yeah, I feel like I did a good job last week of kind of getting my body back where I wanted it to be. And playing the John Deere next week. Kind of just managing your energy and understanding that there's no need to kind of go play 18 holes of golf every single day, but just kind of keeping your body fresh is honestly more important than a lot of other things when it comes to your golf game.

JACK RYAN: Any other questions? All right, Gordon, thank you very much for your time and best of luck this week.

GORDON SARGENT: Thanks.

