

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
December 6, 2023

ALL-ABILITIES COMPETITORS

Kurtis Barkley – Canada
Lachlan Wood – Australia
Chris Willis – Canada

Brendan Lawlor – Ireland
Juan Postigo – Spain
Tommaso Perrino – Italy

Jack Bonifant – USA
Luke Carroll – USA
Kenny Bontz - USA



WORLD CHAMPIONS CUP

KURTIS BARCLAY: I'm excited to be here and excited to compete. We're on a world stage now, so we're great to have all these gents here and competing, and yeah, it's going to be a good time. I'm excited for the course. It's tough and challenging. I think we'll do pretty good.

THE MODERATOR: Next in the lineup is Lachlan Wood from Australia. I know you had a great performance last week at the ISPS Handa Australian Open in your home country. Can you talk about how you feel coming off that performance and coming out here this week at the Concession?

LACHLAN WOOD: Yeah, it feels good. Feels a bit of a confidence boost coming off a win. Obviously exciting to be here, and yeah, game is in good shape, so just try and back it up and do as best I can.

THE MODERATOR: We'll go down the line to Chris Willis from Canada. Can you give us your thoughts on the golf course at the Concession? I know you got to see the course yesterday, play a practice round. Curious how you think it's playing and how it will test you guys in your ability this week.

CHRIS WILLIS: The golf course is beautiful. It's a shot maker's golf course, so many of the greens I found that you have to aim to the middle of the green and then turn the ball towards the holes. If you take a straight line to the pin, your ball may run off quite often. I'm pretty excited to bear down on my wedges and my approach shots and of course try to roll the rock well and make some putts.

THE MODERATOR: Team Europe, Brendan Lawlor is from Ireland. You are an ISPS Handa ambassador. Love to hear from you, your thoughts on the support of ISPS Handa for all-abilities golf. What does that mean to you and some of your peers here?



BRENDAN LAWLOR: Yeah, it's incredible. Very lucky to be an ambassador with ISPS Handa the last four years. They've definitely changed my life financially and with golf, as well. They support many things, not just golf, wheelchair basketball, and really believe in the power sport. Juan Postigo also is an ambassador, as well, so there's a lot of us growing the game in different sectors, and it's truly inspiring to be with such great company.

THE MODERATOR: We'll jump to Juan Postigo. Just your thoughts on ISPS Handa and their support of events like this and also maybe could you tell us what you're most looking forward to this week?

JUAN POSTIGO: Well, as Brendan just mentioned, I think ISPS Handa is on a mission of growing the game, for making it accessible to everyone and hopefully make many people like us a career from this game of golf.

We're looking overall for the win, Team Europe. We had a very good year in the Ryder Cup, so we will try to continue on your home soil. We're very excited to do it, and I think we're focused on what we have to do, the process to take the win. It's not going to be easy. There's many good players, very good teams around, but from a team aspect we're strong, and I think we'll try to make it very well to give the trophy to Europe.

THE MODERATOR: We'll jump to Tommaso Perrino from Italy. Curious your thoughts on how you will approach this week. You play in so many stroke play events in golf. With this being a team competition, how will that change your approach as you try to get the win for Team Europe?

TOMMASO PERRINO: I like this kind of match because it's more challenging. Overall we can change our system of game, and I love the match play, and I think it was best for me than other match, but we'll see, and then come on, Europe, and we'll see.

THE MODERATOR: We'll move on to Team USA. Next on our lineup is Jack Bonifant from Kensington, Maryland. Jack, similar question but curious your thoughts on what will be the keys for Team USA to come out victorious this week.

JOCK BONIFANT: I think we'll have to score more points than anyone else, first.

You know, I think the foundation of the match is stroke play, but there is a match play aspect to it, so I think taking -- I can put on some coach-speak and just say one hole at a time, one shot at a time because every single hole is different, so it's not a cumulative thing, the points are, so understanding that and try and take advantage.

THE MODERATOR: How did you feel about the course yesterday? Did you see all 18 holes yesterday? How did you feel about the course conditions and how it'll shape up for your team?

JOCK BONIFANT: Yeah, I was able to see all 18 yesterday. It's a lot easier to get ready for a golf tournament here when it's like mid 60s, low 70s than at home when I was hitting balls last week in like 35. From that aspect, it's just really nice to come down and be on a golf course that has growing grass, but the lies are a lot tighter than they were in Maryland.



THE MODERATOR: We'll continue down the line to Luke Carroll from Old Hickory, Tennessee. Curious your thoughts on what this event means to you, the opportunity to play here with some of your peers and just compete with all of these all-abilities players.

LUKE CARROLL: It means a lot getting to play with all of these great players, people that I look up to. Kind of surreal just looking down the range and you see Vijay Singh and Ernie Els just hitting balls. It's pretty cool, and it'll be amazing this week.

THE MODERATOR: Kenny Bontz is from Parrish, Florida, which is very close to here. Kenny, would love to get your thoughts on playing sort of in your backyard here. You've played a lot of places around the country, around the world, but what's it going to be like competing here at the Concession and talk about how far that is from home.

KENNY BONTZ: I live about 20 minutes from here. I've had three invites to play this place and had to bail on every one of them, so I finally get to play it now, and yesterday was phenomenal. I've heard so many good things about this course and all these guys from around the world. They're in for a treat, as you heard from them already.

It's going to be good. Hopefully we can defend. There's some talent here. I've played with these guys all over the world, and I think I am the oldest guy out here by a long shot now, so it's good to see everybody again, and it should be a good competition.

THE MODERATOR: I think we can wrap up our group session today. Thank you for being here. Really appreciate it. I wish you the best of luck at the ISPS Handa all-abilities competition at the World Cup.

