

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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WORLD CHAMPIONS CUP

**PETER JACOBSEN**

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**MODERATOR:** Good morning, everyone and welcome to the media center here at the World Champions Cup at The Concession Golf Club.

We're now joined by the chairman of the World Champions Cup, Peter Jacobsen. Thank you for joining us. All the time and planning that went into this event and now we're on the even of competition, how great of a feeling is that for you?

**PETER JACOBSEN:** It's different for me because I had a chance, I played in two Ryder Cups in my career, so when I came to a Ryder Cup or a Presidents Cup, I had a different view. I looked at it from a player out and all I thought about was my game, I thought about my playing opponents, my teammates.

But having the chance to have been on the other side, the organizing side is different because we're looking at every aspect of this event except hitting shots and worrying about competing.

But that still doesn't take away the fact that I feel the competition is what we're here for, the U.S. versus International versus Europe. This is a chance for these teams, these players that have all played Ryder Cups and President Cups to have a chance to settle some old scores. Rivalries never go away, they never die, that competition doesn't die.

We just -- Charlie Besser and I just had a conference on the range with the three captains and they're standing about an extra foot or two apart. We have a small gathering and you know when you go to a Christmas party everyone's all standing like this? On the range everybody was standing about a couple arm's length away because this is serious. These guys all want to win. It's all fun stuff starting Wednesday, Thursday, but when we get going in the tournament, it gets serious and these guys want to settle some scores.

It's fun for me to be able to see it from both sides, from inside the ropes and outside the ropes, but more than anything I'm just so extremely proud of Intersport, of being here at The Concession, what they've done to be able to put this whole concept together. Hopefully this is the start of an event that will be with us for 100 years or more joining a great foursome of team -- world team competitions, the Ryder Cup, the Presidents Cup and the Solheim cup on the LPGA tour. This is a welcome addition to those team competitions. And for these Champions Tour players, these guys that are seniors, but believe me and you'll be able to see they can really play.

**MODERATOR:** And can you give us a little background of how this all came together from the idea stage to where we are now?



**PETER JACOBSEN:** Well, this idea's been kicked around for many years, but nobody had the guts or the wherewithal to get this across the finish line. That's when I looked at my friend Charlie Besser with Intersport who started talking about this 10 years ago, and we started talking about this, Charlie brought me in about five years ago, to be able to get this thing, as I said, across the finish line.

So it has been incredible to work with the PGA TOUR and the Champions Tour. The collaboration we have with them and the players have been fantastic to work with. And again I'll say about Concession Golf Club, this is a world-class facility and the players are raving over the condition of the golf course and the back nine here.

You're going to see in the competition, it's a medal match play. Obviously there's points available, so it's a unique format, something we've never seen in the world of golf. I think you're going to see that it is, it's a format that's fun. Scoring system is different. It's going to be easy to follow and I'm just very excited that we are getting ready to kick this off tomorrow.

**MODERATOR:** What has been the most rewarding part for you putting this all together?

**PETER JACOBSEN:** I think the most rewarding part is the -- is the collaboration between everybody. Putting an event like this together is extremely hard. PGA TOUR, Champions Tour, the LPGA tour, the DP World Tour, putting together individual events on these tours is difficult. I've been part of that in my career while I played. I also helped to put some events together. It's hard. It's hard to get everybody on the same page, and we've done that. Thanks to Charlie and Intersport and all the players, our three captains, Ernie Els with International, Darren Clarke with Europe and Jim Furyk with the United States, they have been incredible to work with. Very supportive, very collaborative, a lot of great ideas that they've given us. And we've kind of knitted it all together into this Christmas sweater, but it's not an ugly Christmas sweater, it's a beautiful Christmas sweater.

**MODERATOR:** Great timing for December.

With that, we'll open up to questions from the group. Please raise your hand if you have a question and we'll get a microphone over to you.

**Q. You said that rivalries never die. Put in perspective how intense it's about to get out there when the rounds start tomorrow.**

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Well, I played on the PGA TOUR for years. Then when I turned 52 I joined and played on the Champions Tour.

It doesn't matter if you're looking across the ropes at a 20-year-old, 30-year-old, 40-year-old or a 50-year-old, you have a memory if somebody beat you in tournament play or a world team competition. I know in my Ryder Cups, I won events -- I won matches and I lost matches. Those matches you lost, they sting and that memory never goes away.



I remember losing to Sandy Lyle, he was the No. 1 player in the world and I got paired against him in one of my Ryder Cup matches. He kicked my tail and I've never forgotten that. So knowing these guys as well as I do and talking to them, it's going to be pretty intense. As the captains will tell you, it's all fun and games until that first tee shot is hit, and then it gets pretty serious.

As I said, everybody's standing about an arm's length more away from each other on the range and that's for a reason, they want to win.

**Q. Peter, can you talk about how The Concession sort of fits this sort of team competition and how it's kind of, the course sets up for that.**

**PETER JACOBSEN:** When we had the World Golf Championship here a couple years ago, I was here for that week and I've played the golf course three or four times. The greens are pretty treacherous. They're difficult, they're elevated and they have so many runoffs and collection areas on all sides.

So I think this is more of a second shot golf course than it is a tee ball golf course. Fairways are pretty generous, pretty wide. When Tony Jacklin and Jack Nicklaus designed it, I think they had the intent of making it pretty easy off the tee. Not easy, but wide. But I think the precision is asked for on the second shots. And on and around the greens, that is where matches are won or lost. So you're going to see a lot of chipping. I've always said on The Concession Golf Club, players that have the more superior short game are going to be the ones that come out on top.

**Q. Talk about trying to get Europe and the rest of the world and U.S. together for years on the regular tour. Could this be a good test run for that?**

**PETER JACOBSEN:** I think it is. One of the things that we see, especially with LIV golf and the PGA TOUR and all these new signature events and the elevated nature of these tours around the world, I think this could be a pre-cursor to that. It would be a really fun thing to do and I think would be of great interest to everybody around the world. I know that there's a lot of acrimony right now between the Tour and LIV and I know there's Tour and DP -- everybody's fighting for their own space.

But leave it to some senior players, leave it to these guys that understand collaboration and I think they understand competition, but they also understand the camaraderie, trying to get this to be able to be a format around the world.

**Q. I was going to ask you, at any level of play what's the most memorable match you've ever been a part of?**

**PETER JACOBSEN:** I think first match I ever played the Ryder Cup in '85, I was playing with Curtis Strange as my partner. We had an alternate shot match. Being me, I'm a talker, I



went over, we were playing against Ian Woosnam and Paul Way. I walked over there to wish them the best of luck and Curtis turned to me and he went, come here. I walked back, and Fluff was caddying for me. He said, you want to talk to somebody, you talk to me or you talk to Fluff. We don't like them, we're not talking to them.

That kind of hit me in the -- slapped me across the face that this is serious competition. It's U.S. versus Europe, and in this situation Europe's had their way, as you know. Europe has been dominating in the Ryder Cup. In the Presidents Cup, Ernie's been a part of a lot of losing teams. He knows it, he mentioned it this morning. He wants to exact some revenge on the U.S.

And Europe -- Darren wants to keep flexing their muscle to be able to continue to show how strong they are.

So when I had that match with Curtis, that really made me realize, OK, this is different, this is serious stuff.

**MODERATOR:** All right, thank you so much for joining us, appreciate it.

**PETER JACOBSEN:** Thank you.

