

SUNDAY SINGLES
December 10, 2023

TEAM USA



WORLD CHAMPIONS CUP

LAURA VESCOVI: All right, everybody, we would like to welcome the victorious Team USA to the interview room.

Gentlemen, you've just captured the inaugural World Champions Cup. How does it feel? Let's start with our captain, Jim Furyk. How proud you are of this team?

JIM FURYK: I'm excited. It was a hectic day. Watching is, I feel for our wives, they do this every week.

Points were flying up and down. There was a time in the middle of that back nine where we were six down and these guys just fought, and I mean fought really hard. Just so happy for them. It was a pleasure to be their captain. It was a pleasure to work with them all week. We're good buddies every week of the year, but to get together as a team is really cool. Just so happy for everyone.

I mean, I saw so many -- in that wind today, I'm looking at those greens and how narrow some of them are, the fall-offs, the golf this afternoon from all three teams, the amount of birdies I saw out there on the golf course is shocking. So guys played well.

LAURA VESCOVI: Billy, let's go over to our vice captain. You had a great week out here and this was your first team event of this nature. You played incredible. You had a must-make putt there at the end.

Can you talk about how exciting it was this week and this afternoon?

BILLY ANDRADE: Just being with this team is amazing. You know, I just wanted to not be the anchor. I really wanted to contribute as much as I could. Played great players today and I really thought I needed to make the putt on the last hole. If I didn't and I needed to two-putt, I probably would have left it five feet short, but I was aggressive with it thinking I needed to make it to get the extra point.

Anyway, **this is a total team effort, everybody together. Jim made a comment before when we were talking about pairings before this tournament started about lifting each other up and having partners that lift each other up. Every single player up here lifted their partner up and lifted all of us up. Whatever, saying something just so, you know, go get 'em or a fist pump or whatever. We were truly together, truly a team and great teams like this win. I'm just absolutely floored to be a part of this and have this experience, especially at my age.**



LAURA VESCOVI: David, you had the pleasure of being the anchor for the team. Can you talk about how special that is and how important that is for Jim to tap on you for that?

DAVID TOMS: How special that is? I think when you have as many points as there were out there, even Jim as a captain, he's got a lot of experience doing that before and even he didn't really know what to do.

But he said if it comes down to it, I want you at the end. I was like, OK, sounds good. The problem was I had like an hour and a half between rounds and I wanted to kind of get out there and go. But I was fine with that, took my time and went through my routine again.

You know, I really didn't think we had a chance like at the end, the middle of the back nine was the last time I saw a scoreboard, we were down like six points. On No. 8 I had a putt to win the hole and one of the guys in the crowd said something to the effect that it was a big putt. I was like, at that point I didn't even know it would mean anything honestly because I didn't know where we stood. I made the putt, so that was good. The people were chattering about that.

Then I got to the 18th tee and I heard "USA! USA!" after Billy made his putt and I was like, man, we have to be in good shape.

And then to have to play that hole, you're the last guy playing that hole and it was tough. You're just trying to finish. I hit a good tee shot; that was the big part of it, trying to get that in the fairway.

Then to have a 4-iron, I made a comment to one of the guys outside, I said I've been -- I've hit a lot of meaningful shots in my career just because I played golf for so long and that one right there was one of the most nervous type of situations I've ever had having to hit a shot knowing -- not quite knowing what was going on, but after I hit it, obviously knew what was going on.

Man, I was just, I guess I was ready for the moment, I'm not really sure, but it felt good out there. And the two guys I played with are major champions, Hall of Famers. That's what you get every week out here when you try to win a golf tournament. That's what I had coming down the stretch and I'm just very happy that this team got it done.

LAURA VESCOVI: Jerry, I see you nodding along here. You had a great week of play, most points of everybody on the team. Your family's here, your mom's here. I know Carol wasn't able to be here, but it's really special to see you with your family. How are you feeling?

JERRY KELLY: It was really special. Shout out to my wife, Carol. She's been with me through this entire thing.

Another one to my nephew-in-law who just passed. He caddied here for a year right when



he turned pro, so I had a lot of great feelings. I had a card from his funeral that was last week in my bag, so he was with me the entire week.

And Ally, his widow, she's our niece. They lived with us for two and a half years and it was a special time.

So coming back to Concession where he started basically caddying, his pro career was starting as caddying, it means a lot to be with these guys and have that family atmosphere.

And yes, I had family here, but these guys are my family. The points that I made were our points, they weren't my points. So what we did as a team trumps everything that any individual had going on.

I love you guys. I mean, it just feels so great to be on a team. I mean, I was on Presidents Cup, but that was so long ago and I was spinning at that point. I feel like the last team I was on was a hockey team back in high school.

It is awesome with you guys, thank you.

LAURA VESCOVI: Justin, can you just tack onto that a little bit? You had a great pairing in Jerry the first couple of days. If you could just share some thoughts on your competition together and with the team as the whole?

JUSTIN LEONARD: Sure. I think it starts with Jim, the time and energy that he put into this event along with Ernie and Darren, this was done all the way. There's nothing -- yeah, half-assed, thanks for that, Wisconsin -- nothing half assed this week. From the moment we arrived, every I was crossed, every T was dotted.

I'm from Texas, that's how we say it.

It starts with Jim and Tab, the energy that they put in to make it a special week for us, the communications starting two or three weeks ago. And then to get on property and to play practice rounds. I mean, just the dinners, having dinner with these guys and their wives and their families and kids, it's just been a great, great week, a great atmosphere.

You know, the bonus of all of it, it was a great week regardless, the bonus is that we're getting to sit up here as the inaugural champions of the World Champions Cup.

Rubbing that in your face (referring to Stricker.)

LAURA VESCOVI: Brett, I'd like to hear from you. Has this week met your expectations? What were some of your highlights?

BRETT QUIGLEY: It's beaten every expectation I had. I lived and died with these guys, it was just incredible. It was way more fun than I thought it would be and just so much love.



The team aspect of it, because every week we're doing our own thing and we go home and we go to the next week. This week, to have our families here, our caddies so involved and all the players genuinely pulling for each other made it so special.

LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you. And we'll leave it with Strick before we open it up to questions.

Steve, you've been in a lot of team events like this, you've held a lot of different positions within them, but this one might be a little bit different given that you're playing on this tour, these are your friends, you've known them for decades. So I imagine it was a little bit different.

STEVE STRICKER: Yeah. I've got to honestly say that this was probably the most fun of all the teams I've been on.

We're all very competitive from all 18 guys that played. We all wanted to win, but there is a casualness to it, too. I mean, we're at the stages in our careers that this is kind of the icing on the cake to play in something like this.

Jim and Tab did an unbelievable job, all great to reconnect with everybody.

And Billy, great to play with him. Haven't -- we spend time together out on the Champions Tour, but to be embedded with these guys all week and the amount of fun that we had all week is really very special.

This is -- I can honestly say this is one of the coolest events we've been at because -- it really is. I mean, I'm done, but it really was, it was very, very special. The wives, the kids, we were all together. The caddies, yep, everybody was with us. It just was special. I mean, I don't know, there's no other way to put it, it was just very, very special.

Q. I want to get reaction from you guys. When we gathered earlier in the week to talk about 648 points, sounded like some fictional number. Then you're standing on the final green of this thing with everything on the line. How amazing was that in itself?

JERRY KELLY: I don't know who came up with this points system, but they ought to attack the World Golf rankings maybe or something like that.

What a great format. I think we all kind of didn't realize that when we finished the team competition that we're like, OK, we're halfway done. We didn't really realize that. We were like, OK, one more session. But it really puts that impetus on the individual play afterwards as well. I know that's what you guys like to see happening.

The way that the team wrapped around, I think that format was, I mean, spot on. It was just fantastic.



BILLY ANDRADE: Our captain talked about every hole is its own hole and that was -- I think for a lot of us, especially myself, that was huge because you may not do well on one hole, but it's over. Like it frees, really it does, it frees you up.

I just thought the way the format went, it was just really cool that OK, yeah, the seventh hole's over and I made a bogey there or whatever. Now I go to the eighth hole, you know what, we're all tied again and it's like OK. So you're playing nine holes but they're all the last hole kind of.

So that was really cool I thought. And Jim instilled that in us, talked about it. Said OK, especially in singles, he talked about it last night. Hey, you get zero points on the first few holes, there's nothing you can do about it, it's over, let's go to the next hole and try to get a couple points there. I think we all thought -- had that -- thought that from our captain.

Q. Jim, all these balanced teams and a two-point win, what do you think was that small difference?

JIM FURYK: Well, I'm glad our meteorologist got it right because -- but there's 24 matches and we needed the eighth and ninth green for the last three holes to actually get it done. So I'm glad we went off early, I'm glad that we had a chance to kind of play 18 holes today and kind of sort it out on the golf course.

Really, I just think the fight, the grit. I thought even yesterday, I said to them when I came in the press room in that afternoon session in the Scotch sixsome I guess it's called, we missed the green on 9 there three groups in a row and all three groups got the ball up and down. Those little points, a half point there, a whole point there, they add up. At the end of the week it gives us a chance coming down the stretch to get it done.

I think really, what I really liked about this team and I always talk about the personalities and how easy these guys are to get along with and how friendly we all are, but this is a feisty group. I think we've got a bunch of guys that have good short games, good putters, guys that don't give up, guys that will grind it out and finish a hole for you. I think coming down the stretch, I mean, every team we played, Hall of Famers everywhere, but these guys are tough and it just kind of happened to go our way this week.

Q. David, when you were coming down 9, or 8 I'm sorry, and Billy had 9 to play, that was it. Last two guys and you guys still trailed at the time. A lot of people didn't see the birdie at 8, so can you take us through that?

DAVID TOMS: That was an interesting tee shot all week. The wind switched a little bit to make it easier, it was a little bit downwind and then today it switched a little bit. I made eagle in the morning on that hole and I had basically the same yardage on my second shot as I did this morning. Wind came up a little bit and I didn't quite get my second shot there, hit it on the green and two-putted from there.



Anytime you're within 50 feet and you can get it within five feet, you've hit a good putt. Even though I had a five-footer, it wasn't like I was bummed out that I didn't get the first one close. It was a tough putt. But I had a downhill left-to-right putt to win that hole and I didn't know how big it was at the time, but certainly that was a nice one to roll in.

I don't know, I go back to the same thing Billy just said. To me, I played free golf all week. Free meaning swinging free, putting free, chipping free just because of the format, because you're out there and if you don't win a couple holes, it's not a big deal, or you get zero because you always have the opportunity to basically, if you get two points, that's like you won two holes, you know, normally.

I thought it was a great format for that and you just, you were able to just free things up a little better and keep your attitude and everything and not get down. Certainly I think that's what happened to us the last five or six holes. Anything can happen and it looked -- I didn't know what the rest of the guys did, but for me personally, I just tried to play the golf course, each hole, each shot one at a time and I'm glad it worked out for us.

LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you all for coming today. We're so happy for you, congratulations again on your win at the World Champions Cup.

