

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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JOEL DAHMEN



Q. Thanks for joining us, past King of Corales, that's a popular tag around here. How has it been coming back to the Dominican this week?

JOEL DAHMEN: Yeah, this is one of my favorite spots. Obviously I have great memories here winning three years ago. Doesn't really feel like three years ago. Came back the first year, got sick so WD'd and I didn't play great last year. Just good vibes, love this place and looking forward to a great week.

Q. What do you remember most, like when you -- you said three years removed. When you think about it, what do you remember most about that week? Is there a standout?

JOEL DAHMEN: Obviously you remember a lot of the golf shots, but we stayed in a great house with the Brehms and their family. My wife was here. We're in a house two doors down with the Brehms again this year, we have Nate Lashley as well. It's kind of fun. We hung out, we played cards last night, eating great food, just kind of chilling. So just that off-course stuff that you normally don't get week to week.

Q. It was a great video viral moment when you won with your hat blowing off and Geno running after it, coming out of the bunker with his hands up. How often does that come up in conversation with you?

JOEL DAHMEN: A lot actually, especially around -- you know, when you actually posted that again. It's fun. Obviously it's windy here. I have a slightly better hat this year that will stay on so that's great news for everyone involved.

Q. You played in the pro-am this morning. How's the course look to you?

JOEL DAHMEN: Course is great. It's as green as I've ever seen it. I think they had a little more rain recently and more in the forecast as well from what it sounds like. Course is in great shape. I've never seen the greens roll this smooth before, so that's exciting. Some of the spots they have where the ocean splashes up on the course is in better shape than I've seen it. Course should play great. It's going to play a little longer because it's soft, but I think you'll see some good scores.

Q. How would you assess your season so far this year?

JOEL DAHMEN: It's a great question. I feel like I'm close. I'm putting the work in, I'm doing the right things. Haven't seen great results. I had a great PLAYERS Championship for three



days and finished well there. Thought that might be the springboard that kind of gets me going. Hasn't quite happened that way.

But when I won here three years ago, I missed seven of eight cuts coming in. I don't know, when you kind of have something like this and the good vibes, you're going to come back, and playing the back nine today, we kind of look at all the shots we hit before and makes you feel good like you can do this, and I really feel like my golf game's coming around.

Q. Only one of the six winners was not in their 30s, that was Chad Ramey and he was almost 30 when he won. Do you think there's any correlation to just the way the field's made up or perhaps a little bit of experience? Do you find that unusual?

JOEL DAHMEN: That is an interesting one. The game is really getting younger. I think with the wind, typically how it blows for four days, you have to really patient out here. The young kids hit it so far now and they like this hit the ball in the air, and the old crafty veterans, that I'm one of those now I feel like, we flight the ball a little bit more. There's more shots we're hitting, it's not just a wedge hitting straight in the air. I think with that, that could be it, just being able to flight the golf ball out here a little bit.

Q. Does like the chilled atmosphere or this event sort of help you? It seems very laid back, sort of chilled. Does that help you?

JOEL DAHMEN: I think it plays into my style a little bit better, for sure. I enjoy my time off the golf course. Like I said sitting around at the house or going to the beach this week, whatever it may be, that's great.

I think it's easy to get caught up week to week kind of in the hamster wheel you can call it of like practice all day Tuesday, you play nine holes, you do this and then you wake up the next week to do it again and again and again and it really doesn't change, because you're in a hotel, eating out all the time, doing the same thing.

This week is just so different for us. It has that Korn Ferry feel a little bit where everyone's together, you see each other when you go out to dinner, everyone's at kind of the same host hotel this week. That's kind of a fun vibe because you get to meet a lot of people you haven't before, the caddies are hanging out, which is fun, so I think that part of it helps, for sure.

Q. I was going to say about your finish at THE PLAYERS, what do you think sort of clicked that week to help you finish so well in such a strong field?

JOEL DAHMEN: I wish I knew. I like to think that I kind of rise to the occasion when it comes to that. THE PLAYERS is the fifth major, it's our biggest purse out there, it's a great golf course.

I knew my game was trending going that way. It was just kind of -- I mean, being focused for 72 holes is a huge key for me if I can keep that up for 72 holes.



Yeah, I just like that event, I like everything about it. I hit it really well that week. I have the same feels on the golf swing, so I'm hoping that those will keep going week after week instead of just one week.

Q. Netflix, you're a bit of a superstar because of like how well you play and your personality as well. How much -- it might be a bit of an exaggeration to say it's changed your life, but how much has it changed your life, the Netflix series?

JOEL DAHMEN: Quite a bit. Yeah, Netflix has changed it a lot. I would say I have more distractions or responsibilities or opportunities, I don't know what you want to call them. They're all those things kind of at the same time.

So time management, I'm very bad at time management, I always have been. So then you add a kid into it and trying to manage that as well with the other things I'm doing off the golf course now and some opportunities, so just trying to manage that all.

There's great things that have come from it and some of it is just feeling like there's more things to do, there's a little more added pressure. There's less down time I would say, but mostly great things have come from it.

Q. Is it a little bit strange having a camera crew in your house and stuff like that?

JOEL DAHMEN: It is, yeah. It's something you get used to. You try to watch what you say when there's a microphone on, but a lot of times after a while you just kind of let it go. It is different, but at the same time we agreed to do all of it.

I find it amazing that people are interested in -- like I still think of myself as kind of a Joe Schmo who just happens to play golf. We do the same things that every other family does. I obviously have a great relationship with Geno and he's hilarious and he's a great guy to be around, but we're just normal dudes who happen to play on the PGA TOUR. I find it kind of fascinating at times that so many people are invested or care about it.

Q. I find you and Geno so authentic on it. Like sitting in the private jet where you have this like existential conversation about because he wants you to see a psychologist and stuff like that in the episodes. I just find that so authentic and it's like the cameras aren't there.

JOEL DAHMEN: Yeah. Really, it's kind of one of those moments where -- I mean, they're around quite a bit, so I mean, and the conversations kind of come up naturally. Like we have a lot of deeper conversations I'd say than other players, caddies do. We're not just a player, caddie obviously, it's my best friend and he cares about me, so he's going to bring up those questions when they arise and it happened to be on a plane with some cameras around.

Q. Joel, just want to go back to the field this week. I don't know if you've paid



attention. Like do you pay attention to the field? There's some interesting players in this field, Nicolai Hojgaard having played in the Masters and he's here this week. Any thoughts on that make up of the field, a lot of DP World Tour players that are here?

JOEL DAHMEN: Yeah, totally. I think with the DP guys coming over, they're obviously proving to be great players. Having Hojgaard in one of the final groups on the weekend at the Masters and then to come down here. When someone said Hojgaard was here, I just assumed it was his brother because like I didn't think he would be coming down here after a big week like that. Maybe he was getting in RBC this week, I didn't know.

The fields are getting stronger week in and week out, they're not going as deep. I think that's great for the game of golf. There's no easy spots on the schedule anymore; not that there ever was, but they're just getting tougher and tougher and it's fun to be able to come out here and you have the best players.

Q. Sort of a bit of a testament to this event, too?

JOEL DAHMEN: I think so, for sure. How many years has this been going on now?

Q. The seventh.

JOEL DAHMEN: The seventh year. Year after year it's gotten better. They take care of us really well, the clubhouse is great, the food is phenomenal and having this Puntacana Village that we have, this whole area is really spectacular. That's why people come here, they actually come here on holiday. We get to come here to play golf, so I would say so.

Q. Just a bit ago you kind of mentioned how life has changed, adding the kid since your win here and becoming a father. What's kind of been the big changes in life?

JOEL DAHMEN: My schedule and my life is not a priority anymore, which is probably good because I've had that for 35 years prior. It's probably time I had something else come up.

Yeah, it's the coolest thing you can do is to be a parent, I think. It's not always easy, but it's really fun, it's rewarding. My kid's getting to the age where he's walking around now and he's playing with balls and got him a plastic set of clubs so he's whacking it around in the backyard. Just those things are so much fun.

My off weeks are a little more busy at home, but -- and it's fun to have him travel out here. He's going to do things in his life that kids only dream of doing. Like growing up on the PGA TOUR is pretty special. To be able to share that with him and the memories.

Like after one of the rounds at THE PLAYERS Championship, I don't know if it was Friday or Saturday but my kid was on a putting green throwing balls into a hole. Like looking around, you have all the flags and you have this basically major championship place and my one-year-old is just playing with balls on the putting green. That just doesn't happen very



often. So just being able to share all of these experiences with him is really cool.

Q. Lona and Riggs with you this week?

JOEL DAHMEN: They are not. They traveled a ton with me recently. Two weeks at home sounded better than this long travel and they'll catch up with me again next week.

Q. A couple weeks back you were one of the first people to congratulate Stephan after his win. What's it like to see friends like Stephan and Max trending?

JOEL DAHMEN: Yeah, we all push each other out here. To watch Stephan put in the work he's put in the last couple years. Our kids are also the same age. I mean, that week we spent three days at the park together like after rounds. Do a lot of dinners together and just hanging out.

To watch the work that he's put in, asking him what he's doing and why it's working and what's going on.

Obviously with Max, he's been on a rocket ship for years, we all kind of saw this coming. Yeah, it's great. I texted Max the other day about some putting tips and he texted me right back with some ideas. Just to have my friends graduating and climbing the ladder is really cool.

