

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
May 7, 2024

SHANE LOWRY



JACK RYAN: We would like to welcome Shane Lowry into the interview room here at the Wells Fargo Championship. Shane's coming off a win in his most recent start at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans where he paired with Rory McIlroy.

Shane, what were the emotions coming off of that win and what are you most looking forward to about this week?

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, I mean, there was a lot of -- obviously I was very happy with the win -- not relief, but, you know, 400 FedExCup points is very welcome at this stage of the season. Moved up nicely in the FedExCup rankings which is really nice.

We had a great week and we enjoyed it. It was lovely to get a win. It's been a while since I've won over here, so it was nice. You know, we enjoyed it.

As far as this week goes, I'm here. I don't have a great record here. I haven't particularly played well here on this golf course, but I had that with Bay Hill this year as well and I did pretty good that week. Trying to be as positive as I can. Yeah, hopefully I can have a good week again.

JACK RYAN: You mentioned those FedExCup points when you were at TPC Louisiana. Now what do those points do for you in terms of yours goals the rest of the season?

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, I mean, obviously you start off every season with TOUR Championship as your -- one of yours goals. That's well in my sights now, so that's obviously a big goal for me. I've never played in Atlanta. I finished 31st a couple of times. To get there and get there in a good position would be nice.

It's just kind of, it just is a really good building block for the rest of the summer. I think even though we're only in just beginning of May, the PGA TOUR season, it's already half over, there's only half a season left. It comes around thick and fast, these big tournaments come around thick and fast.

As well as that, I wasn't going to be in this week. I had been informed I wasn't going to be getting an invite, so it got me in this week, it gets me in Memorial, it gets me in Travelers. Yeah, I can plan my schedule pretty nicely, which for me was actually, it was becoming a bit of a headache because my family go back home for 10 weeks and I was going to have to stay over here for a little bit longer than I would have liked and I would have been away from them for longer than I normally like. Yeah, it let me plan my summer a lot nicer.



Q. Shane, what does winning do for your confidence? You've been chasing it and obviously you had a pretty good partner with you, too. I mean, to finally --

SHANE LOWRY: Really?

Q. To finally get the results, how much does it change the way you feel about your game?

SHANE LOWRY: You know, I feel like I've been pretty happy with how my season has been going. I gave myself a few chances in Florida to win. I didn't quite win, but I felt I was trending in the right direction. I felt like if I just kept doing what I was doing that I wouldn't be far away. Obviously to win the team event, it was nice having Rory McIlroy as your partner, makes things a little bit easier. Yeah, it's still very nice to get a win.

Winning, we always say in golf, winning takes care of everything, and it does. It takes care of a lot of things. That's in the past now and you just kind of move on now and you've got big weeks coming up, like obviously this week, next week's another major and then before we know it we'll be at Memorial and U.S. Open. They just come really fast around this time of the year. It's kind of a nice time of year to be playing your way into some decent form and some confidence.

Q. Shane, you and Rory decided to enter the Zurich. Did you make any other plans in the after-party in New Orleans and how was that celebration like in New Orleans after you won?

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, actually I went home on Sunday night. He had to go somewhere else on Monday morning. Yeah, I went home Sunday night. He went away for a couple of days and we met up on Wednesday night.

Yeah, we had a pretty good night Wednesday night. We drank some nice stuff and had a good time and we celebrated our win, which you should do. Like I say, I've been on Tour, I've been playing 16 years and I've only won seven times. You've got to celebrate the good times, too.

Q. You had mentioned that Rory made you believe in yourself down in New Orleans. Was there anything specific that he told you that made you click and actually think you could do it?

SHANE LOWRY: No, I can't remember saying that, but I think what was great for Rory and I that week was, and this is how I think of it anyway, I've probably been a little bit hard on myself the few previous weeks, and obviously the few previous weeks didn't go well for him, either. I feel like we played golf with a lot more freedom that week and I feel like it's a lesson for the two of us for the rest of the season, to go and play golf how we played that week in New Orleans. I feel like if we can do that we both can be dangerous in the big tournaments. I just think the whole week of playing golf with a smile on your face, playing golf with a little bit



of freedom goes a long way in this game. I think we both learned a lot. That's how I feel anyway.

Q. You say you've been hard on yourself. What have you been hard on yourself about?

SHANE LOWRY: Just when results -- you know, obviously I did well around Florida. Honda, or Cognizant, and Bay Hill, I had two really good weeks, I was in the final group all week. Then you start to expect that from yourself week in and week out. Masters didn't go my way, Hilton Head didn't go my way, so I was getting a little bit down on myself. Not down on myself, but I knew my game and a lot of aspects of my game were very good, but I just needed to tidy up some other things. When you're not shooting the scores you feel like you should be shooting, it becomes difficult. Yeah, I've just been hard on myself, the days were getting tougher and tougher and yeah, New Orleans sorted that.

Q. First of all, how do you rate Rory as a singer after the performance?

SHANE LOWRY: He's a better golfer than singer thankfully for him.

Q. I guess you both only sat out the singing part?

SHANE LOWRY: Sorry, what?

Q. You intentionally didn't join in?

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, no, I couldn't believe he was doing it, to be honest. I was just standing on the side. Yeah, he kind of got blindsided into doing it, so fair play to him.

Q. You say you don't have a great record here. Is it something about the golf courses, just coincidence, or something that maybe doesn't fit your eye?

SHANE LOWRY: I don't know, to be honest. I hadn't got a great record at Bay Hill, but I also felt like Bay Hill's the type of course I should do well on.

Obviously this suits longer hitters. I'm not short, but I'm not one of the longer guys. I just, yeah, I just feel like I need to not try to be one of the longer hitters this week, you kind of get what I'm saying? A lot of holes out here, you stand on the tee and it makes you want to hit the ball hard off the tee and I feel like if I can get the ball in play and hit the fairways I can be dangerous because my iron play is my strength. Yeah, so if I can hit a lot of fairways this week, which that's my game plan, there's a lot of bunkers out there like 300 yards that I can carry if I hit a really good one, but if I don't hit a good one it's probably going to be in bad shape.

I just need to be wary of that and just play within myself this week. I feel like I've done that here in the past. It's nice to come in here with four rounds before next week and just try to



play my way into the tournament and give myself a few chances. You never know because, like I said, Bay Hill was a tournament where I had a much worse record than I do here and managed to play pretty well there. Hopefully I can do the same this week.

JACK RYAN: I think that's all we've got. Best of luck this week. Thank you for your time.

SHANE LOWRY: All right. Thank you.

