

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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MAX HOMA



MODERATOR: We would like to welcome two-time Wells Fargo champion Max Homa to the media center.

Max, what's it like to be back at Quail Hollow?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, always one of my favorite cities that we go to. I love this place, love the food, got family, friends here, love the golf course, have some cool memories that I always get to kind of reminisce on. Obviously getting the Presidents Cup out here was such a bonus, so I really love coming here. Unfortunately might not get the best weather so I'm soaking in what we've got today. Yeah, I love Charlotte and I'm always happy to be back at Quail Hollow.

MODERATOR: What's the game plan for this week?

MAX HOMA: Hitting the fairway and then try not to make the ball bounce too high on the greens, they're really firm. I think you start with the fairway and then do your best to leave it in the best possible spot.

It's going to be a little bit tricky with some of the -- if the wind kicks up at all, the greens, they'll stop eventually but it takes a massive bounce, bounces right over -- Brian Harman's not super tall, but it would bounce clear over his head. Going to be a bit tough with the new greens, but they're in good shape, they roll great, so got to somehow get it to stay on there.

Q. How would you describe the season? West coast was quieter than usual for you, and then Augusta. What's kind of the reason behind it, the source of the up-and-down season?

MAX HOMA: The pessimist side of me is very frustrated with the season. I think I've been spoiled by playing the west coast so well pretty much every year since 2020. However, I've played the majors so bad in my whole career that the optimist side of me was thinking maybe I won't peak in February for once in a season and actually have a chance to win some majors and contend at the FedExCup.

So yeah, I'm pretty pleased in general that I haven't done anything this season for the most part and I'm sitting 22nd in the points. I'm in a good spot with my golf game, I just -- I know everyone probably comes in here and says the same thing, but my game feels great, just haven't putt as well as last year, haven't driven it quite as well, but I've had great weeks. I think the putter's put pressure on a lot of my game. Found something with the putter the two weeks I had at home and so I am optimistic.



It's frustrating to be without, you know, tons of great results, but if I was just valuing the golf I'm playing, how it feels, it feels better than typical at this time of the year. So I don't know, take that I guess with a grain of salt, who knows. But yeah, just trying to look at it in a different way. I just think, like I said, I've been a bit spoiled with the beginnings of my seasons have been so good, I come into some events with so much hype and I've not lived up to it. So maybe under the radar is better for me this time of year.

Q. Who usually wins, the optimist side or the pessimist side? How tough's the battle?

MAX HOMA: It's not a battle, it's a war. Who normally wins? Unfortunately, the pessimist side, but reading a lot of books saying we could start going in the right direction at this exact moment. Hopefully next time you ask me that I'll have a better answer.

Q. You just mentioned hopefully you're not peaking early and you're in good position. So with the U.S. Open, I mean the PGA is next week, but the U.S. Open down the road, have you been to Pinehurst in competition, have you seen the property, and what do you kind of look forward to when the Open rolls around in a little over a month?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I have not been. My caddie, Joe, went on Sunday and played, so he went on a little scouting trip. I've had great success in North Carolina or in the Carolinas really, so I think that's cool.

Pinehurst, after I played Bandon Dunes three years ago, Pinehurst was my next on my bucket list, the highest one that I'd like to play, so I'm just excited to get to play a golf course I've looked at with some admiration, so I think that will be fun.

Don't know loads about it, but yeah, I know it will kind of fit my eye, how I like golf to look, golf course architecture and whatnot, so that part will be fun.

Yeah, obviously we have next week at Valhalla will be cool. I think everyone's watched that on TV quite a bit if not played in it. We have a cool run of majors as per usual, but I think especially cooler because I think Pinehurst is one of those like staple U.S. Open golf courses that you want to play as a kid and you look at as you will -- you know there will be a U.S. Open there at some point, so it's cool that we get to play it.

Q. Max, I know you and Scottie are buddies, but do you hope in the back of your mind a little bit that this break cools him off?

MAX HOMA: With the kid? I mean, no, I guess. You want to beat people at their best. He's making that incredibly difficult.

I will say if there's one thing that could slow him down, it's parenthood. It's hard. I don't know if you can see I have a cut on my face from my son flying here on Monday, it's difficult.



Scottie's frustratingly well rounded as a human being. He is a hard worker at golf, I know he's going to be an amazingly hard worker as a dad. I know he's going to dominate both.

Yeah, he's probably going to have to make some adjustments with sleep and the practice and kind of dividing your time amongst that when you're home. On the road I think it's a little bit easier, but at home you get that dad guilt at times. You're on the golf course, you want to get back and help, you know, your wife and be around as much as you can while also trying to be -- Scottie's on track to be one of the best of all time. It will be a learning curve, but I mean, I don't hope it slows him down. Maybe once in a while when I'm in second place to him, that would be nice. Maybe I'll take that answer back. Yeah, I think you always want to beat the best when they're at their best, so he's giving us a really good target to aim for.

Q. Max, there's been a lot of conversations around the PGA TOUR and the policy board. Is that something that you would be interested in joining or being involved in in the future with your career?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I thought a little bit about it. I'm on the PAC, so step one, I guess. I'm not sure. You hear so many complaints about the long phone calls. I'm around Pat a lot and he's on the phone 24/7 working his tail off, so I'm not 100 percent sure.

I will say I have really enjoyed being a part of the conversations about boosting the entertainment value and kind of putting the fans first. So maybe if that goes well and I feel like I have an impact, then sure. If I don't think I'm going to have an impact, then I'm not going to just do it to say I did it.

I really joined the PAC because amongst all the chaos we've had the last few years in golf, I didn't want to just keep complaining about it to my friends and not really know what was going on. So since I've been on I feel like I know a bit more and I hope I've said some things that have helped. I'm not sure, but I guess if I could convince myself that I'm having some kind of impact, I would like to be a part of some positive change. So I wouldn't rule it out, but definitely not on my wish list from what I hear at the moment.

Q. I'm going to ask you about the other world No. 1, Nelly Korda. I know you played with her in Florida a couple years ago. Are you surprised at all by what she's done going for six straight?

MAX HOMA: No. I remember when we played with her, I asked her while we were playing how anyone ever beats her. I've been fortunate, I've gotten to play with a few of the women on the LPGA, Alison Lee, grew up with her, she's tremendous; Danielle Kang, a number of others. They're all so good when you watch them practice. I never really played like a full round of golf with any of them, I don't think.

Nelly's playing from our tees and it was tremendous. I remember her answer was I need to go see Lydia Ko play and these others, and I realized I just haven't gotten to see it as much.



But I was fairly curious how she ever does lose because she didn't miss a golf shot for seven holes and made a bunch of putts and chipped it better than anybody in the group, so I guess I'm not surprised.

But from what she said, it did pique my interest that obviously there's a wealth of talent out there, but getting to play with somebody up close and personal for 18 holes from the same tees, you really get to soak in what they're so great at.

Yeah, she's pretty tremendous.

Q. How does the new tee change 16 here?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I guess I'm hopeful now the long guys can't fly the right bunker because that's a problem with the old tee. If you could fly it 320, that fairway is double the size and you're hitting way less club in. So you could swing way harder and be kind of bailed out left and right a little bit.

Now it's like I don't think anybody can fly it. I say that and Wyndham will probably carry it. But I've never really liked lengthening holes, it just doesn't seem like the right thing to do, but in that case I do feel like it might make it a little bit -- not that it should be fair, but if you hit the ball far, that's a massive skill, but it felt like you were getting an enormous reward for about five to seven percent of the field. I think it makes it a little bit better. It definitely makes that second shot really unique. That's a tough second shot, so I think that's fun to -- I think it is one of those rare positive changes of moving a tee that far back and actually continuing to give the long guys an advantage but kind of making them hit into a similar width fairway that the rest of us are.

MODERATOR: Thank you, Max. Good luck this week.

