

## ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

### PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

June 26, 2024



### CHRIS KIRK

---

**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Chris Kirk into the interview room here at the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

Chris, your fifth straight start here, finished in the top-25 each of your previous four starts. What do you like so much about coming to Detroit Golf Club and the Rocket Mortgage Classic?

**CHRIS KIRK:** Yeah, definitely one of my favorite events of the year. I love the golf course, just really great, classic, old-school, no tricks about it but right there in front of you. Just go play some good golf and you'll do all right.

**MODERATOR:** We've got six weeks left in the regular season here. I know you've got all kinds of goals in front of you in terms of how far you want to advance in the FedExCup Playoffs and coming into week No. 10, the Presidents Cup standings. What are some of those goals for you as we finish up the regular season here?

**CHRIS KIRK:** Yeah, my focus is mostly on The Open Championship and then our playoffs. As far as the Presidents Cup is concerned, I feel like that's something that will either take care of itself or it won't. I'm in good -- pretty good position in the FedExCup Playoffs right now, so I'm going to take a little bit of time off after The Open and rest up and try to get myself physically back at 100 percent and ready to go.

**Q. You have the experience on this course, you know that it's a low scoring course. Does that add any pressure or do you prefer that type of setup?**

**CHRIS KIRK:** No, no added pressure, for sure. I think that I really enjoy the variety of setups that the Tour presents us. The Memorial tournament and Pinehurst, for example, were both incredible tests and both incredible golf courses and really, really fun weeks, but I'm glad it's not like that every single week or we would all be pretty exhausted after a little while.

I enjoy events like the Sentry this year where we're shooting close to 30 under, and the AmEx tournament and all those, too, but I'm also glad that it doesn't take 30 under to win every single week.

I just really enjoy the variety of golf that we get to play.



**Q. Chris, can you kind of take us into what your philosophies are when it comes to planning your schedule and when to take some time off and when to go on a run of playing and things like that?**

**CHRIS KIRK:** Yeah. I mostly try to plan out my schedule looking through the year into the summer of going to places where I've tended to play well. That's kind of the No. 1 priority.

This year with the creation of the Signature Events for me has been pretty different because I've played some tournaments that I don't normally play and I wouldn't say that it's really worked out that well for me. Events like the Travelers Championship, that's a fantastic golf course and one of the best run tournaments that we have all year, but I have not traditionally played that well there. And I did it again last week, I didn't play particularly well.

That's going to be something for me to maybe reassess going into next season. I actually had this conversation with Rory a few years ago when we were looking into doing all this. For someone like Rory or Scottie Scheffler, I talked to them, you probably show up to any golf course in the world and feel like you can or should win the golf tournament, but there's only a few guys probably that feel that way. The bulk of the PGA TOUR do not feel that way, so we like to kind of pick and choose our places that we like to play based on where we have a good history.

So yeah, I'll be interested to see what I end up doing next year. I think the Signature Events are a fantastic thing, it gives the opportunity for fans and events to have all of the best players in the world together is a pretty awesome thing. But, you know, I'll be interested to see what I end up doing next year.

**Q. Is there generally a different feeling, I don't know if that's the right way of saying it, but a different feeling for the majority of the field at an event like this? There's no one in the top-20 in the world here this week, but there's the most players this event has ever had between 20 and 100. I don't know if it maybe feels a little more open, a little more up for grabs. Do you know what I'm saying? Is there any kind of vibe or difference than maybe a Signature Event?**

**CHRIS KIRK:** I haven't really felt much difference, if any, to be honest with you. I mean, I think it's just one of those things that the game of golf has an incredible depth of talent, and so I feel like if I went and played a Korn Ferry Tour event, I wouldn't feel like I really had much advantage there, either. Yeah, I think every PGA TOUR event you can look at the metrics of how strong the field is or whatever, but you're going to have to play -- to win, to finish top-10, whatever, you're going to have to play some truly incredible golf in any given week.

**MODERATOR:** We appreciate your time and best of luck this week.

**CHRIS KIRK:** Yep, thank you.

