

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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JOHANNES VEERMAN



MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome Johannes Veerman from the United States.

Johannes, you're a DP World Tour player. You're currently the highest ranked player from the DP World Tour on the Race to Dubai in the field this week, so we just wanted to get you to come in here and talk to us and get to know you a little bit. I know you played here last year, had a couple of good first rounds, but what did you learn from the golf course when you were here last year?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Good question. It's a really fun track to play, you can make a lot of birdies out here. You've got to put it in play. The rough was pretty penal last year, it's a little shorter this year, but the greens have a ton of slope so you get on the wrong side of the holes, it can be hard to make birdies, it can also be hard to make pars. You can shoot 6, 7 under out here pretty easy -- not pretty easily, but everybody is really good so you can shoot 6, 7 under here pretty easily, but then you can also shoot maybe a couple over pretty easily before you know it.

MARK WILLIAMS: So you just played nine holes just before you came in here. Have you noticed much of a difference from last year condition wise or the way it's playing?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: The rough is a little shorter and the greens are a little slower, but I think that's just because it's a Tuesday instead of last week we were playing all the way through Sunday, but for the most part it was pretty much about the same I would say. Yeah, it's still really fun to play.

MARK WILLIAMS: Your pathway to professional golf, you turned professional after college in 2015, so almost 10 years.

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Yeah.

MARK WILLIAMS: You mostly played in Asia and Europe.

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Yeah.

MARK WILLIAMS: What's that pathway been like for you exploring the world and playing on some challenging courses around the world?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: A long way away from home. Also, not really. My mom is Indonesian, my dad is Dutch, so maybe it's really fitting that I played on the Asian Tour and then on the European Tour. So when I was in Asia I was with my mom's family a lot and



being on the European Tour I got to see my dad's side a little bit more.

Yeah, I mean, the variety of courses we play, it's everything. It goes from all the kind of grasses that you could even think of that I didn't even know existed. I sometimes wonder what would have happened if I got through Korn Ferry Tour Q School the first go 'round, what would my first nine years as a pro look like, but I'm really happy for where I've been and what I'm doing right now. I think my story is unique in that sense and I'm having a lot of fun doing it.

MARK WILLIAMS: So moving on to that, I guess, this tournament and next week out in Tahoe, they offer a lot of opportunity for players like yourself from the DP World Tour that can gain access to the PGA TOUR. What are your thoughts on that and is that something you hope to achieve?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Yeah, that would be just, I mean I think it's everybody's dream really, to come over here and play on the PGA TOUR. That's where the best players are. I think if you're a real competitor, you want to play with where the best guys are playing.

I think the only pathway for us in the immediate future is to win an event, so yeah, winning a PGA TOUR event is obviously also a dream come true. I know there's 10 cards coming from Europe, but that's a season-long race so we'll see how that all shakes out for everybody this season. I know a lot of talented guys are gunning for it as well and I'm hoping to get one as well if I can keep my form up. But in the immediate future, yeah, two cards, a win this week or win next week, it might be a guy from Europe that gets in and I think that would be pretty cool.

MARK WILLIAMS: You mentioned the 10 spots available by the DP World Tour and we've seen examples of success with Matthieu Pavon and Robert MacIntyre winning over here after gaining access that way. What sort of inspiration does that give you when you see that from some of your peers?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Oh, massive, massive, yeah. It's not even those guys who win, I mean, Robert and Matthieu, they're having a heck of a season, but even guys like Sami Valimaki finishing second in Mexico, and Olesen playing well. Most of the guys who have gotten their cards have gone over here and for the most part showed up and proven that the DP World Tour is a tour like stacked as well.

It's really cool, really inspiring, but it kind of also is affirming that like we are pretty good, I'm pretty good. Sometimes maybe there's a discrepancy of maybe a lower level tour in terms of quality, but the top-10 guys that came up and showed up have proven it to be otherwise.

Q. You won the 2021 Czech Masters. What do you remember most about that and are you putting any pressure on yourself to get back into the winner's circle?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: What do I remember most about that? Great question.



I just remember maybe more relief than anything because sometimes you wonder if you're ever going to win. It is really hard. Some guys like Scottie and Tiger and the world's greatest, they make it look really easy like it's a normal thing, but it's really hard.

I remember just feeling relief that I had won on the DP World Tour. And then I remember playing with Rafa a couple weeks later and I was telling him about this relief that I had and how maybe looking forward to the next one. He told me -- this is in answer to your question -- just enjoy it because then you're going to be wondering when the next one's going to come, when's the next one going to happen, am I going to win again, am I going to win a third one, am I going to stop at three, am I going to win four. So just take it one win at a time essentially.

The last two seasons haven't been my best two years, still kept my card both years. I have my game better this year, but yeah, I'm not really too much looking on if I'm going to win this week or when I'm going to win again, but just more like can I put four good rounds together, can I be competitive and like the overall picture of am I getting better.

MARK WILLIAMS: What would you say is the strength of your game and perhaps something that you need to work most on?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: I think the strength of my game this year is probably my approach play, my iron play. It could be better, it can always get better, but I think right now that's where I would say I think I can hold my own. Off the tee, my driver game needs to be a little better. I have some speed, I have some length. Nothing crazy but it is respectable, but it does need to be straighter.

MARK WILLIAMS: And you went to college in Texas, you were born in California, you said your mom's Indonesian and your dad's Dutch. Where do you kind of base yourself when you're playing around the world?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Yeah, this year is the first year where the first half of the year we stayed in Dubai, in the UAE, and since May I've been in Amsterdam, in Holland. I'll base myself here for three weeks and then I'll go back to Holland probably for the remainder of the season.

MARK WILLIAMS: Finally, you mentioned you've been out there for 10 years playing all around the world. Is there anything that stands out to you, an interesting story?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: (Laughs.)

MARK WILLIAMS: I'm sure there's tons of them, but is there one that comes to mind that you're happy to share with us?

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Nothing that -- I know things have happened over the past nine



years, but nothing that comes straight out to my mind, no.

MARK WILLIAMS: OK. Maybe we'll get you back in here.

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Maybe I'll mull it over and I'll come back.

MARK WILLIAMS: We appreciate your time, Johannes, and have a good week this week.

JOHANNES VEERMAN: Thanks, Mark. Appreciate that.

