

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**MAX HOMA**



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**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome 2021 and 2022 Procore Champion Max Homa into the media center here in Napa.

Max, you obviously have a great history here, I believe it was described as your happy place. What do you like about this course, what about it fits your game? Can you just talk a little bit about it?

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah, just in general I love being in California this time of year, especially with the weather that's going on at home in Arizona, so that's nice.

Yeah, the golf course lends itself to a lot of wedge shots. That's typically been, you know, what I've been proficient in. And yeah, there's I just believe in the dorkiest way ever there's just some magic when it comes to this game. It's not this golf course, but this event, this was my first ever pro start and it went well. So there's just something that obviously I have a fondness for.

It's just been obviously fun every year I've come up here. Win or lose, we've had a great time. Obviously see the golf course well, which helps.

**MODERATOR:** In about 10 days you'll head up to Royal Montreal to participate in your second Presidents Cup. I believe you had a great opportunity to win here and then immediately fly to your last Presidents Cup. Can you talk a little bit where you are in your emotions when you got the call from Captain Furyk?

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah. It was not like the last couple. Last Ryder Cup I qualified and then two Presidents Cups ago I kind of knew I was on the team, I was fairly certain, and this time it was obviously way up in the air.

So I felt -- it was odd, I felt this massive bit of relief and pride to get to do this for a second time, be on my third team, and then also a massive amount of like angst that balancing between wanting to prove myself and then also just understanding that I got picked for a reason, just go play some golf.

It's been a back and forth of the emotions, but the underlying one is a ton of excitement. The team events are by far my favorite thing that I've gotten to do and I really can't wait to get up there. I'm glad to be here to get some reps in since I didn't make Eastlake.

Yeah, it's all settled in now, so I'm really stoked to get to go compete with all those guys in two weeks.

**Q. What's this season been like for you? Obviously three top-10s, you played well but you haven't won, which you've won a lot in the last few years. How do you sort of view this season, reflect on this season at this point?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah, obviously like frustrating because I mean the ebbs and flows of it have been so high. But yeah, just went back to like last offseason I just wasn't swinging the club great with the long stuff. I went to Africa for the Nedbank and won. I think I'll remember that when I'm done with my career. It was just the most like random win because my game didn't feel great and I found something.

I feel like that's kind of how I played all year. Some weeks it would feel OK and I would piece it together, other weeks it would feel not so great and I wouldn't piece it together. I had a few weeks where it felt amazing and I played well. So it's just a lot of just never felt like I was just going in one direction for a decent amount of time.

But I think what I -- when I reflect on the season, it gave me an opportunity to practice some things that I need to get better at, which was, you know, just a lot of mental fortitude and stamina in my mental game.

Had a few weeks in a row where it was just very difficult, but kind of waking up every morning doing the same thing, trusting the process and knowing that my career's not a three-month window, it's hopefully a bunch of years.

I think getting better at all that this season will propel me going forward as the swing gets better, which it already feels significantly better. I take that with me.

I watched a ton of Kobe Bryant interviews and those types of videos on the internet about, you know, no one likes to lose but there's a lot of great in losing, you learn how to -- what you need to get better at and you get to practice things that when you're playing great sometimes you just like gloss over. I know I'm going to be a better player coming out of it because of what I went through and learned from myself this year.

**Q. If I can ask a follow-up, do you usually watch those Kobe Bryant videos or that was something you brought out as the season --**

**MAX HOMA:** No, I always do, but just extra time like seeking them out. Usually just see him scrolling your phone and I've always attached myself to the things he's said. Definitely try and like go back and like learn from what the greats, at what they've done, say.

I think learned a lot from the guys out here from their press conferences and interviews and just try to take this stuff. Again, I'm not going to learn how to hit a driver from them necessarily, but the way that they think and they go about their work is something to learn from and get better at.

**Q. Max, how inspiring is it to have Jim Furyk, your Presidents Cup captain, Kevin Kisner, Stewart Cink and now Brandt Snedeker here on property, some who are playing here and some who are here just to get this team connected? How inspiring is that to be around these gentlemen and to tee it up here, having them watching, kind of helping you with this Presidents Cup?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah, no, it's great. Seems like everyone's super bought in. Everyone -- honestly, having like someone like Wyndham up here is awesome. He does not need to be here, but he's trying to get ready for the Presidents Cup.

It's always inspiring being around Kiz because it's more of a confidence boost. I know how far I hit it, so it's always great to see him swinging as hard as he can at a driver.

No, it's great. The communication's been really, really good. I've gotten along with Captain Furyk since the day I met him. I think we have kind of a similar mind, you know.

Stewart is amazing, he's incredibly kind. We were just talking about his career yesterday on the flight up. I mean, 500 cuts is outrageous, so you see someone still working so hard at it.

And I just saw Brandt yesterday for the first time in a while, so that was cool.

Yeah, it's great. The camaraderie on the teams I've been on and this is no different, even though we haven't all been together yet, has always just been a massive highlight. It's great to see that happening again this year.

**Q. Max, if you were captain, would you have picked you and why?**

**MAX HOMA:** Well, yeah, because I know what I'm capable of. I definitely think it would have been harder if I had to pick myself after the end of my season, I don't think that would have gone over well.

But yeah, that would be a problem I'd love to have. It felt nice to know that Captain Furyk and the rest of the team, assistant captains had that faith in me. Yeah, I'm sure it was a really difficult decision.

I'd be lying if I said I didn't feel bad for the guys who didn't get picked. It's just hard when you're the -- you know, on the bubble, the 11, 12, 13, 14 type guys, it's just a difficult spot to be in. Obviously I'm quite grateful, thankful to be on the team, but I imagine those decisions are very difficult.

**Q. What do you think you could gain from this week?**

**MAX HOMA:** I think reps are important. I mean, I didn't make Eastlake, so I haven't played a tournament in a few weeks. Just making sure that it doesn't turn into five weeks off before I play a golf tournament, I think that's a big deal.

I've worked on quite a few things at home, so just getting more comfortable doing it.

I don't necessarily think that the -- it would be great to play well obviously, but I don't think that there's really anything on the golf course that's going to freak me out or otherwise. It would just be nice to get comfy doing -- I've changed my setup quite a bit and things of that nature, just getting used to doing it in rhythm and in an environment where, you know, there's pressure, I guess. Doing it at home's a little bit easier. Things like that, I'm just trying to get -- I think everybody that's playing on the team coming up, just trying to get some competitive reps in.

**Q. Can you elaborate on the setup changes?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah. I just noticed that golf's a really silly game. We made a massive setup change right before Valero this year and it worked really well. I hit it well at Valero and hit it amazing at Augusta and hit it well at Hilton Head the following week for the most part. Was like, OK, cool, we figured it out.

And then everything we changed after that essentially didn't work and never really went kind of -- never really went back to setup because we figured that's what caused such a great few or couple week run of ball hitting.

Kind of got a lot closer to the golf ball. I did that on the weekend at BMW and drove it really, really well, and then kind of changed some other things about that, just getting more level. I was just putting myself in a difficult position not to get the club coming from the inside coming down.

Did kind of a bunch of stuff to the setup to make sure that that wasn't so prevalent. It's made hitting the longer clubs really easy. Or sorry, much easier. Nothing's easy. Much easier. Took away kind of the big issue I was having, which was just getting mega stuck and struggling with the driver.

**Q. Max, Jim Furyk described you as the glue on the team. Do you feel like that's your role, to be kind of that glue, team leader?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah, I wouldn't say I'm a team leader by any means, but I feel like everybody gets along with everybody really well. I definitely think I'm probably more talkative than Xander and Scottie, who are clearly the two best players this season and they both happen to be on our team, which is awesome.

Yeah, you know, I take that -- I love the opportunity to be the glue, but I don't know, I haven't really thought much about it. I just try to be myself.

It feels nice to know that someone like Jim sees that in me. Yeah, I just try to be myself, have some fun, make sure everybody's as comfortable as possible.

When I play with my partners, I just try to instill in them that I have the utmost faith in them and I just want them to go out there and be the best they can. I'm going to be there for them if they have a bad hole or two. I don't know, I've always just been really lucky with my partners and my teams, everybody's just been super close, so it's been -- I guess it's pretty easy to glue something together that's not broken.

**Q. Max, when you take a step back and look at the eight fall events and you've got the Presidents Cup, what would be your hope that you see out of your game in the fall?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah, I don't really -- I haven't really put too much thought into it. There's four months. After the Presidents Cup I'm just going to be looking at January. I'm going to be excited to get to work and away from competition. Like I said, I've done a ton in the last three weeks, so I know what I'm doing is right.

There's very little to prove to myself that if I came out here and hit my first drive in the right rough, it's not like I'm going to be searching where I felt like for a while there at the back end of the season it was like every missed fairway it was like why is this happening. I know all the whys now, so that's good.

Like I said, time away, even if it's not a massive amount of time, is nice. You get a lot of great work in.

So yeah, obviously not seeing a big miss would be nice, but for the most part, like I said, even just leaving BMW with that weekend I had driving, it wasn't smoke and mirrors. I knew what I changed and why I changed it and why it was working better. To drive it like that for two days in a row was awesome. The first day was amazing, it felt good, but I'm experienced enough to know that that doesn't mean a whole lot if you go out the next day and you have the same issue.

So the issues seemed to go away. Made a bunch of other modifications. Yeah, like none of this is like a test to me to see how it's going to go. I am certain of what I'm doing now. It's just, like I said, just getting reps in to get ready for the big event in a couple weeks and then use the rest of the fall time to myself to make sure I'm just continuing to make that better and make it -- like I said, being here, one part of it is just getting comfortable doing it in competition like at pace, like in rhythm and not feel like you're -- I don't know how to put it, but like how I get into my setup, I want that to feel like it's natural. That's going to be a little bit difficult tomorrow, but it's not something that's like crazy. I just want to get that done this week before having to do that when you have people chanting USA, or I guess we're in Canada, so "eh" a bunch.

**Q. You mentioned how great you drove it in Denver, but how you get into your setup tomorrow's going to be slightly different from that?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah. Denver I just got closer to it, like that was it. And that was hard. It's

uncomfortable, but there's not much going on.

I've changed a little bit just like how level I get at setup. When I'm on the range it's easy, you can sit there and like get really comfortable with it and make it as like rock solid as you want it to feel. I played a lot the last few days at home trying to like you notice when you get on the tee, it's like you don't have all that time. You don't want to stand over it for a while. I imagine that's going to be somewhat -- problem's not the right word, it's going to be uncomfortable, but that doesn't mean it's bad. I just need to get the pace of that and make it feel like I'm still being artistic and hitting the golf shots. That's all I guess I meant by that.

**Q. A couple questions. What was the Augusta experience like, to be in contention the way you were on Sunday? What did you learn about yourself? How do you look back on that?**

**MAX HOMA:** It was awesome just beginning to end. It was like such a tremendous week. Playing well there is so cool because I'm going to assume it's because it's the no phones thing, but the fans are just so engaged, it's remarkable.

Yeah, I learned that -- I got a pretty awful break on 12 that I wish I had back just because it might help me learn more about myself as far as like going against someone like Scottie late in a major.

I kind of felt like I got robbed of that opportunity by like a foot of ivy. What I learned up until that point was that I didn't really like blink those 11 holes before, and even the tee shot on 12 I hit where I was looking. It just was one of those things where I didn't feel like I balked at any point.

That was something, as someone who's never been in contention at a major, that was what I was a little bit apprehensive about, like are you the same guy who's won six times here. Like do you still feel calm, do you feel like you have control. And I did, so that was awesome.

**Q. You talked earlier about the frustration and angst of this season. How much differently are you trying -- are you as you navigate all this compared to like five years ago? We talked ahead of Pebble five years ago and you hadn't won at that point. So much has changed about your perception of your career has changed because you've won six times, you've elevated your career a lot in the last five years. How does that affect the way you reflect on your career and your -- or your season I guess is what I'm asking?**

**MAX HOMA:** It is easier. I remember Justin sitting up here getting asked similar questions last year and kind of chuckling at them, because I finished 12th in the points in Presidents Cup and I've been reminded how awful I've been playing. I made it to BMW playing horrendous.

Like my bad is I manage. Like I for sure did not drive the ball well this season, but like I kept

myself in some tournaments, I made the most out of some, some I still punted away a little bit but I made the most.

So yeah, I didn't win and I wasn't in contention over and over again, but I guess it's easier -- the perspective I have is that my golf game is so much more well rounded so it's easier to just look at just one piece, like if this thing can just get back together, like the rest of it's great.

That's what I've been telling my little team is just that. Just was off the tee, it made the irons really hard, it made putting hard. It puts a lot of pressure on things when you're hitting a lot of par putts on certain weeks. But everything feels really good and I think we did a great job of not trying to rebuild everything. We just have the frustration with one massive part of the game.

And then the other part is just I know, like I said, you have a bad year, that's -- those happen. I mean, I've just been excited about the challenge of next year and knowing that when these kind of changes I've made continue to evolve and improve, like the rest of the golf game for sure is still going in the right direction. Golf's just a funky game. You could have one thing that's off and it could make you look silly at times.

**Q. Last thing. How different is your life than it was five years ago in terms of in public, the interaction with fans out here since you've won six times and become a top-20 player?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah, it's a lot different, but it's fun. It's really cool to get that recognition and I've met a lot of awesome people.

And yeah, it's definitely crazy and sometimes you still -- kind of feels weird, but it's -- I guess as a kid you just put yourself back in those shoes if you had seen -- I remember getting a golf ball from Nick Watney when I was a kid and it was just like so exciting. So it's cool to be able to do that for other kids and then meet some people like out at restaurants or the airport or whatnot.

**Q. Max, you talked about the idea of having magic here and being able to have defined victories in a place where it's magic, but you don't win six times without winning in places where there isn't kind of that magic.**

**So what was the process for you of figuring out how to win when there wasn't necessarily a special feeling, when things may not have been going exactly the way or as comfortable as you wanted it to be?**

**MAX HOMA:** Yeah. I just think I've always, at least since turning pro or kind of back in my college career, I just am very comfortable and patient on Sundays. Like that's just how -- I don't put a whole lot of thought into it. Just I feel comfy. I don't press as much.

I've been fortunate to play some really great final rounds and have great things happen. I haven't really had to work too much on that ever. I know some people have had that, you know, issue.

I've had more issues on Thursday, Friday of not making it too big and getting ahead of myself.

Yeah, something about getting to Sundays is I know I've played great, I'm super confident in my game because I'm in the last couple groups. I just don't -- I feel like I'm an overthinker, but when it comes to that, I can turn my brain off and stand on that first tee and know that I've got a lot going for me this week and I just kind of let that show, I guess.

**MODERATOR:** Perfect. Thanks so much, Max.

**MAX HOMA:** Thank you, guys.