

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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DAVIS THOMPSON



MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Davis Thompson to the interview room here at the RSM Classic.

Davis, first, what we're all thinking, it's the first time you're back here at the RSM Classic as a PGA TOUR winner. Just talk to us about this season for you.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, it's been a great year. Kind of started off a little slow, a little inconsistent, but then hit my stride this summer and put together some really good tournaments and had a few runner-ups and then broke through at the John Deere. Then obviously was able to finish top-50 in the FedExCup and that was a huge confidence boost.

And it's been nice to just kind of have some time off this fall, kind of end the year at home and hopefully have another great week.

MODERATOR: Do you feel like you're treated differently this week now that you have that monkey off your back?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Not really, no. I mean, I feel like every week's the same, just trying to prepare the best you can and go out and play. I mean, the questions are a little different and I get to do stuff like this now, so it's pretty cool.

No, the goal is to just prepare the best I can and go play well.

Q. Davis, only made one other start since the Playoffs. Just wondering kind of how you've used this time off.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, I've gotten in the gym a good bit with my trainer, really hit that hard. Then honestly just kind of reset. I played 25 events through the Playoffs and my body needed a rest, but I took a few weeks off. Then my trainer and I put together a good plan and we've gotten after it these past few months.

Vegas was a course that I really like and wanted to go play and was kind of itching to go play at that point and was able to play well out there. Then obviously I'll play here, play at home.

Q. Any specific goals in the gym or targets you're trying to hit?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Just maintain weight, get stronger. My body was kind of feeling it towards the end of this year, just playing a lot. I knew that going into next year I was



going to need to get stronger to hopefully towards the end of the year kind of start to hit my stride and not run out of gas.

Q. Last year you were where a lot people are at this week trying to get into those Signature Events. You've locked that up already. I'm sure physically it's been nice not to have to play a full fall schedule, but mentally what has been the difference about already having that secure as opposed to a lot of unknowns you faced last year?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, it's huge. To be able to kind of freewheel it this fall and not really worry about it is great. Yeah, in Vegas I had a very clear mindset and hopefully I can translate that into every event. Just go play, have fun, enjoy the ride and know that I'm living out my dream.

To be able to kind of pick my schedule next year is kind of the ultimate goal to do that year in and year out and hopefully this is the start of something that I can continue.

Q. You talk about hitting the gym. Can you already feel a difference either or see a difference in your golf game or just in the way you feel?

DAVIS THOMPSON: I would say more the way I feel. I had to buy new pants, that was kind of unfortunate, but yeah, definitely seen some checkmarks that have been hit and it's been great. It's been nice to be consistently at home and be able to do that.

Yeah, I mean, really just I'm more excited to do it now as opposed to during the year when you're playing and you're already kind of tired from traveling and it's kind of tough to get in there and force yourself to do it.

Yeah, like I said, it's been nice to be home and get in a routine from doing that.

Q. Did you go up a size because of muscle?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, I had to go up a size.

Q. So you bulked up?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, a little bit.

Q. Also, talk about the lifestyle and what it's like to be basically away from home 26, 28 weeks a year and what's that like for you.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, it's tough at times, but I travel with my wife a good bit, so that makes it a lot easier having her there with me. Obviously this week is a little different.



Yeah, it's tough sometimes when you get flight delays or the rental car lines are through the door. Sometimes it's tough, but it's really cool to go to different places and eat at great restaurants. And then this year I felt more comfortable just because I've been traveling for two, three years now and kind of going to the same spots on Tour now, it's become a lot more comfortable for me.

Q. Is she in the gym with you?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, she's been doing it a little bit. Yeah, she's been doing great.

Q. Davis, hoping to get your thoughts on the changes that were proposed in October and then obviously passed yesterday.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah. Seems like with the field size thing, the guys that tee off late usually never finish because of daylight, so I would like to think that would be a positive thing.

Going from 125 to 100, I don't know yet. It seems like there are a lot of really good players on the PGA TOUR that finish from 100 to 125. It just makes it harder, but that's just the challenge of being out here. You're playing against the best of the best and sometimes you've just got to do it.

Q. Do you ever -- does your brain work in a way where you like to think about the big picture, like here's why they had to do it or here's why it shouldn't be done or do you try to default to more of a like, I don't know, live in the present type attitude? Are you thinking big picture or do you kind of block it out a little?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, as far as like goals, I have big picture goals, but just got to stick to your process. You hear like great football coaches talk about that all the time and it definitely applies to golf.

Like I have obviously big picture goals to win majors and play on these teams, but at the same time what am I going to do today to prepare myself for that moment, to prepare myself to play well week in and week out.

Q. And when it comes to something like the Tour changes, that's something that you don't really have much influence over, so do you kind of group that in a separate category?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, I can only control what I control. If the Tour made changes, great, we'll adapt. The goal is to get better every year. If you go back a step, you just try to get better the next year. For me, it's just controlling what I can control.

Q. Just one last thing, it's sort of hypothetical, but how much tougher would your road to the Tour have been if these rules were in place when you first came out?



Fewer spots Korn Ferry, fewer spots out here, fewer everything. Can you sort of kind of picture how that might have been?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, I think it would have heightened the stress a little bit. Yeah, I benefited from PGA TOUR University, though, so I was a part of that first class and to be able to go to final stage of Q-School helped tremendously. I mean, I guess my goal for the Korn Ferry Tour was to win the points list and if you do that, you're obviously set.

Yeah, it is weird how they're kind of making it tougher, but I understand it, I guess. But yeah, to your question, I don't know, it's kind of hard to say, but it definitely would have made it a little more stressful.

MODERATOR: Final question, Davis, just your thoughts on the Georgia Bulldogs this season?

DAVIS THOMPSON: They've been a little inconsistent, definitely dealing with a lot of injuries. We're in a great time watching Georgia right now, but I keep going back to I trust Kirby Smart and he's the best coach in the game and he'll have 'em ready week in and week out.

MODERATOR: Excellent. Davis, thanks so much for your time and best of luck this week.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Thank you.

