

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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LUDVIG ÄBERG

Q. We would like to welcome Ludvig Äberg here to the interview area at the 2025 Farmers Insurance Open.

Ludvig, this is your second time playing here, a T-9 last year. How much are you looking forward to this week after having some success here last year?

LUDVIG ÄBERG: Yeah, San Diego's my favorite place in the world. I just love -- it's almost like you're looking down at the water and it gives me a little bit of peace. I like coming here, it's a big boy golf course and really looking forward to it.

MODERATOR: Can you talk a little bit about the challenge presented to players here at Torrey Pines?

LUDVIG ÄBERG: Yeah, South course is obviously known for its length and the thick rough. Being able to drive it well's going to be important. Some of these holes are going to be hard to reach from the rough. If you get some, you can draw some thick lies, can't really reach some of the par 4s. Then you've just got to hit the shots and execute.

Q. Seems like you were kind of a breakout star a little bit of TGL. You played great and there were some awesome moments. Have you reflected on kind of how that went and have you noticed an uptick, I don't know if it's your socials or people reaching out to you?

LUDVIG ÄBERG: I thought it was cool, I thought it was really cool. It was definitely different. Going into, I didn't really know what to expect, I guess, but I've always been so jealous of other athletes being able to have that stadium feel and environment.

I thought it was the coolest thing, kind of having music playing and you can kind of pick the songs that you like and you have the walkouts. I thought it was definitely something that I really enjoyed. I think, you know, because I watched it last week too when I was home, it brings a little bit of a different audience, I think. I'm looking forward to the rest of the season.

Q. Yeah, Ludvig, there's so much to like about your golf swing. What do you like about it? What's your favorite part?

LUDVIG ÄBERG: Good question. No, I think when it's good, when it's on, it's really nice. I like the simplicity of it and that's the way that me and my coach are working. We're not trying to reinvent anything, we're trying to keep it very simple.

I'm not a -- I understand the technical part of golf, but I'm not obsessed with it. I'm not diving super deep into those conversations. I know my swing, I know my tendencies and that's really all I try to do. Because golf is hard enough as it is that I try to keep it as easy as I can.

Q. Ludvig, just wondering how you feel about kind of building a season. You had a strong result at the Sentry. I feel like when players get off to strong starts, it usually helps them kind of maintain it throughout the year. When you look back at some of the best seasons, they always seem to start strong. How important is that to get off to a hot start?

LUDVIG ÅBERG: Yeah, I think so. Any tournament you want to play, whether it's early in the season or late in the season, you want to play well. Obviously playing these events here on the west coast, you've got Torrey, Pebble and a few other ones that are really hard courses. If you can get off to a nice start, for me it's all about yes, I'm very result driven, but I also want to be able to feel like my golf swing is working the way I want to and I'm able to hit the shots that I want to without -- if I'm pleased with that, hopefully results will come.

Yeah, I'm definitely looking forward to these next couple of weeks and hopefully we can keep going in '25.

Q. Ludvig, talk about your time -- we were talking earlier, we were talking about you playing in Lubbock and it's the windiest place on the planet. Not sure if it's going to be windy this weekend or not, but kind of talk about your days in Lubbock and how you adjust to the wind; if it's windy out here, you'll already have that kind of grasp on playing in the wind?

LUDVIG ÅBERG: Yeah, Lubbock is very different from Sweden where I grew up. I had a lot of stereotypes going in and they were all true.

But no, I really enjoyed my time in Lubbock, I thought it was great. I made a lot of friends for a long time and I keep going back as much as I can. Went back for the Cincinnati football game last year and went to a couple basketball games last spring, too. It's always going to be sort of my second home in America.

But it was a lot of wind, especially in the springtime when it was kind of switching from cold to warm. It was just go out and play, figure it out and I think that helped me quite a bit.

Q. Ludvig, a couple of 'em. What is it about you, and I would ask more on the mental side than even the physical side about your approach to the game that you've been able to rise as fast as you have given how deep the competition is out here?

LUDVIG ÅBERG: Yeah, I think so. I mean, I'm very comfortable in my own skin, I'm not trying to be someone else that I'm not. I know I'm me and that's not going to change whether I play golf or not.

I try to keep it very simple, like I said before, with my golf swing. Most things that I do in life are very easy, it's very simple. I'm not very difficult, so that's kind of the way I like to approach it. So far it's been good to me. All I can do is try to keep going that way.

Q. Guys have a lot of choices in this West Coast Swing in what to play, what not. Obviously you played really well here last year. How did Torrey, your love of kind of the look of it, how did Torrey kind of get on your schedule relative to other places?

LUDVIG ÅBERG: Yeah, I think so. First off, visually I love Torrey. It's so nice to be out here, and the weather's so nice and the air feels so crisp when you come out the doors.

The golf course, I feel like I like it, it suits me. You need to drive it well, you need to hit it high to get into some of these greens and putt it well, so I like my chances when I'm playing at Torrey. That's one of the reasons why I had it circled on my calendar. It's a nice place to start the year and looking forward to keep it going.

Q. It's still an if, but if the Genesis Invitational were to be played here, would you be a fan of that?

LUDVIG ÅBERG: No pushback from me. Bring it here, please.

Q. If you kind of look at your stats just through the early part of your career, if there's one kind of average or below average it would be around the greens. Just wondering anything in the offseason or anything you're focusing right now that relates to around the green?

LUDVIG ÅBERG: Yeah, it's funny, we had that kind of end-of-the-season stats chat, me and my team. We did some changes in my chipping. It basically came from I got better in the bunker throughout the year, which came from me kind of rotating the face a little bit more. Then that kind of crept into my chipping, which led me to kind of rotating the face a little bit too much off the fairway. It's not very nice, either comes out short right or hot left.

Sort of cleaned that up a little bit, which was nice. Kind of had that distinction between bunker shot and not, so hopefully that will make it a little bit easier.

Yeah, I think you're always trying to learn new shots. Obviously last year for me was sort of all new playing different grasses for the first time and figuring out coming to Riv where it was different from here and then going back to Bay Hill where it was different and bermuda and all these types of grass. You kind of find your way after a while. Hopefully I can use all those experiences and knowledge that I got from last year to perform a little bit better this year.

Q. And then so this is your third season. When you look at where you started in each year, would you say this might be the strongest confidence level you've had in starting a new calendar year?

LUDVIG ÄBERG: Yeah, I mean, I think so. I feel like physically I'm in a good spot, I'm swinging it nice. Just bought a house, so those things are a little bit sorted, too. I don't live with -- I'm not living with my friends anymore. Got a little bit more control.

Yeah, I'm definitely -- coming back to tournaments is one thing, too, that makes it a lot easier. You kind of know where to eat, know where to go and know where player dining's going to be at. Those things take away a lot of stress, especially Monday through Wednesday. Knowing the golf course as well, hopefully I can use that and play good golf this year.

Q. Just a bit offtrack. Your favorite club ever in your bag and why?

LUDVIG ÄBERG: My favorite club ever?

Q. Yeah, your favorite club in your bag.

LUDVIG ÄBERG: I like my 7-wood. I feel like I can hit it a lot of different ways, it's very versatile. I can hit it high, hit it low, turn it over, cut it. So I would say I like that one.

Q. (No microphone.)

LUDVIG ÄBERG: Not that long. It was actually this tournament last year was the first time I used it. We kind of played around with it a little bit earlier in the year, me and my caddie, Joe. Felt like this was a good week to try it out because there's some long par 3s, long par 4s. Almost if you get a half decent amount of rough you can sort of hit it out there. I'm not going to leave it out of the bag anytime soon.

Q. You just mentioned Joe. I had a thought that popped in my mind. I'm just wondering, as everyone's kind of known him as a great caddie for a long time with who he's been with in the past, I'm wondering now that you've had a year with him that you kind of appreciated that you didn't expect when you first started working with him?

LUDVIG ÄBERG: Yeah, I knew going into the partnership with Joe that I got a world-class caddie and a world-class human being. I'm super happy with him being next to me.

It feels like when everything is kind of swirling around, you can always kind of lean on Joe, which is a really good quality that I appreciate a lot.

He's helped me kind of view golf a little bit different. Certain shots that he's so good kind of figuring out what shot to hit at the right time, where to leave it and those things. I've gotten smarter at golf I would say since he started helping me and hopefully we can get a little bit smarter next year, too.

MODERATOR: Ludvig, thank you for your time and best of luck this week.

