

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**JASON DAY**

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**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Jason Day to the interview room here at the 2025 Farmers Insurance Open.

Jason, thanks for joining us. Coming in off a really good performance last week at the AmEx. What's that like many coming into a tournament where you've had a lot of success in the past and coming in off a good week like that?

**JASON DAY:** It's obviously nice to see all the work -- I took, what, four months off pretty much, three and a half months last year at the end of the year and worked very, very hard on my swing. That was one thing that was holding me back last year. Even though I had some pretty good stats around the short game area, could have improved dramatically with the irons. So it was nice to be able to see that pay off. Even though I didn't get the results that I wanted to at Sentry, it was nice to be able to get the results at Palm Springs and try to take that forward here even though this is a very difficult golf course, both sides actually since it changes on the North.

But I am looking forward to the week. It's always fun to come back to a place that I've been coming to since I was pretty much 16 years old. It's nice, it's a fun place to play. It is very difficult. Obviously U.S. Open style golf course on the South and then the course conditions are fantastic right now, so I'm looking forward to hopefully a successful week.

**Q. Jason, your wins here are 10 under and 9 under --**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. -- and that's a single round essentially out in the desert.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, it really is.

**Q. The mental changes, the approaches that you have to make one week to the next --**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. -- do you enjoy that, kind of relish -- obviously you played well here.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. I was looking at the record, the desert has just been on your schedule more**

recently.

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. How is that transition between those two experiences?**

**JASON DAY:** I never really liked coming into this week not knowing where my game's at, especially coming off -- if I wasn't playing the Sentry tournament and this was my first tournament back and you're a little rusty, it's a very difficult week. It can be a very short week if you're rusty.

It was nice to be able to get out to the desert where you feel like you're playing in a dome, which you pretty much are, 75 degrees and sunny.

Like you said, the scoring conditions are very favorable out there. You have to look at how -- where they're putting pin locations. We're playing with amateurs as well so the pin locations aren't as tough. And they're like little pockets so you can actually hit it into a section and it kind of funnels all in together and you have an opportunity, even if you hit a poor one, you've still got an opportunity to make birdie.

Here you can't do that, you can't fake it out here. It's a very difficult golf course. They do have sections, but you've got 14 for instance, if the pin's up on the top left, it's very difficult to get up on top of that, even more so to the top right location as well from the fairway.

So you have to change your mentality from going and going, like trying to shoot a low score, to I've got to pick and choose how much I want to bite off here. Do I want to be a little bit more aggressive on this par 5, try and make a birdie?

If anything, you know, even the scoring opportunities that you have out here, you've just got to make sure that you don't shoot yourself in the foot because you can definitely do that pretty quickly, especially with how thick the rough is.

It's more about changing your mentality from being aggressive to I have to be a little bit more conservative. We know that these courses aren't going to yield a lot of birdies. North Course, that's a different story. There are a little bit more opportunities out there, but since the changes, it's gotten tougher.

Just a patient week. Like you said, 9 and 10 under, my wins, and I think somewhere around that is usually what wins this week. If you can go can I shoot 2 under a day every day and try and stay on that pace, usually you'll get yourself into contention on Sunday and then who knows what happens.

That would be the ultimate goal is try to shoot a couple under a day and go from there.

**Q. I wanted to ask you, you're incredibly loyal to this tournament for good reason,**

**you've played well here. This is 13 straight for you I was looking at.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. But times have changed, schedules are different, there's a lot more demands as far as the Signature Events and how you guys figure things. We have a Wednesday start now.**

**Do you feel a little bit, I don't know if bad's the word, but that the Farmers Open doesn't quite have the same cachet maybe it did?**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, I understand your question. Back when Tiger was playing and winning, what, eight of these, it was the event to come to because of, you know, not only how big the tournament was and what Tiger brought to the event as well, the crowds were huge.

But with that being said, I still think -- that's a hard question for me because I don't know how to give you the correct answer. Like you said, I'm very loyal to this area, I'm very loyal to this golf tournament. I love this area, I love the people here. I also love the golf tournament and I love the golf course.

It's something that has been -- I've had a lot of good memories here so that's why I'm very loyal to this place. I don't want it to get to a point where we've just kind of forgotten about it because to me personally, I think of like the wins that Tiger won, like even myself and what that felt like. I remember, you know, when I won the playoff against J.B. Holmes on the 16th hole and we were driving back and there were just lines of people down 18 like yelling out, and I feel like the crowds have gotten a little bit less since then. It's unfortunate, but I'm hoping that we can change that.

I don't know how to change that and give you an answer other than I feel like I'll always be back here. I've missed some years, but I definitely will always support this tournament.

**Q. Do you think the Wednesday start is problematic for guys now?**

**JASON DAY:** I don't -- what is the reasoning behind finishing on Saturday?

**Q. The NFL conference championship games are on Sunday.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, I don't, I don't know. I mean, maybe it is because obviously you've got more people coming on the weekends if they finish on a Saturday. I know that TV, we have to start out here early so that we have a finish on the east coast in prime time.

Then obviously you're competing against NFL on Sunday, that's obviously difficult.

Maybe that has something to do with crowds as well and then on top of maybe the players don't want to have a quick turnaround from Palm Springs. And you have Pebble next week

and then Waste and then the Genesis. They're three pretty big tournaments in a row, and do you want to play four big tournaments?

Like I think you've got to understand that like tough golf courses mentally I think only -- you can only play -- like because Pebble's obviously a Signature Event and most guys aren't going to miss that. Waste Management is a total beast in itself because it's a mentally grueling week as well, and then you've got another Signature Event after that in L.A.

So do you want to put yourself through a very, very mentally grueling week this week and then play another three events? I think most guys' thresholds are around three, two to three weeks in a row.

Maybe they could spread it out a little bit. That way -- or change the way that the tournament's run out on the west coast, maybe that might help it a little bit. Yeah, I think the Wednesday start, obviously finishing on Saturday and then competing against the NFL is very difficult.

**Q. Jason, is there -- following up on Todd, is there a danger a little bit with tournaments like this that aren't Signature Events that they're kind of looked at as sort of -- and I don't mean this in a demeaning way, but a little bit of a second level type event where the fields are less? I think there's two of the top 12, there's six of the top 25 this week. As Todd mentioned, in the old days almost --**

**JASON DAY:** Everyone came, I remember that.

**Q. -- everyone was here. I talked to a guy this morning who said he's eligible for the Signature Events for the first time and he was surprised what that did for his schedule. There are a lot of tournaments like, oh, I used to play this, but now I can't.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. Is there a solution? An answer?**

**JASON DAY:** Well, there are two tours within a tour now if you could understand that. I think you have the top guys playing the Signature Events and you have the other side of it, too. I think that just happened purely because of the way that when LIV came about, and it's unfortunate but that's what -- ultimately that's what we're dealing with now.

I don't know if I speak for the Tour, you know, as well as some of the other guys because I sometimes -- sometimes the Tour sends me emails and I don't even read 'em. I know there's guys out there that are a lot more qualified than me to answer for that reason.

Yeah, it is tough. The two tours is difficult. I mean, ultimately I think at the end of the day you would probably, you know, if you wanted everyone to play in a tournament, you have to shrink the schedule down dramatically. You can't have 40-plus events or I'm not sure where

it is, it used to be 48 events on the schedule and you knew that it wasn't -- you weren't going to have the best players in the world.

The only way you're going to get the best players in the world is shrink the schedule down dramatically, and I think essentially that's kind of what they're doing now within the Tour is that you have the Signature Events and you have the major championships and then you have -- you throw in your Memorials, your Bay Hills, your Tiger events, all that stuff, those bigger events within that offer three-year exemptions instead of the typical two-year exemptions. Then you might sprinkle in some golf tournaments that you actually like and play well in. Then the rest of the guys that are not quite in those Signature Events yet.

So like I said before, I would love to give you the correct answer, but I just don't know where they're even taking it. I just typically just keep my head down, I keep my mouth shut and try and play good golf because I've got a hard enough time trying to keep the ball down the middle of the fairway down here.

**Q. I don't know that there's a right or wrong answer.**

**JASON DAY:** Well, I appreciate that. I'm trying to tread lightly because I don't want to step on anyone's toes, and I understand.

**Q. If the Genesis comes here, what do you think of that decision?**

**JASON DAY:** I love it because I've had good memories here. I think -- if it comes here I can understand why they've come here. Obviously Tiger's had a huge amount of success here, it's not that far from L.A., it's just down the road, the infrastructure's here already. It just depends on if the city wants to hold it and what that would look like.

Then that is obviously one way of getting the players to come back to San Diego is have a Signature Event in your backyard, which would be nice.

Yeah, it's unfortunate that we're to this point where we have to come to San Diego, which is -- even though we're talking about another tournament coming to San Diego, which is a great thing for San Diego, there's a lot of people that are out of a home that typically we come in and everything's normal. Right now there's a lot of people that are struggling, so we can't forget about that, too.

**Q. Would there be an advantage in playing this course twice in a short span like that?**

**JASON DAY:** Yes, definitely. Yeah, it definitely is because we get a bit of a taste test of what it's going to be, and we know that the conditions will be -- if we -- because we're not going to choose between North and South. It's a limited field, if it's here we're going to play South and it's all four days and it's grueling.

Coming off a week at Waste Management, even though it's perfect conditions out there,

different grass, you've got overseeded rye at the Waste Management, you're dealing with crowds and then obviously you're coming over here dealing with different grass. It's a different -- it's heavy air, the density is completely different to Scottsdale, so it's just a different type of game out here.

**MODERATOR:** Just to clarify an official decision hasn't been made on that particular event where it's going to be relocated.

**JASON DAY:** But I would like it here.

**Q. Jason, we've talked about your rich history on this property. When you come back, what do you enjoy most about it?**

**JASON DAY:** About this property? I think I enjoy just how tough the test is some of the years because sometimes I've definitely played awful and missed the cut here.

You have to elevate your game here because if you don't, you have to be good from tee to green and when you're on the greens, the greens are the defense of the golf course I believe outside the rough and the length.

If you can putt well on poa annua greens, you're going to set yourself up for a lot of success for the way that the greens are. It's a very difficult place to putt. You know that you're going to get bumpy, fast greens. It's not like Pebble next week where they're poa annua but they're slow and fast. It's a total different way of putting. So when you have bumpy, fast greens under the pump here, it's a different kind of beast.

I enjoy the tough test that it gives you. You have to be able to come into a golf course like this knowing exactly where things are in your game because if it doesn't, it exposes it pretty quickly. Fortunate enough for me, I've come off a good week so I feel pretty good about my game. Obviously things can change start Wednesday.

**Q. You're from Ohio and Ohio State had quite the game last night.**

**JASON DAY:** Yes, massive.

**Q. In 2023 you went to the practice, so you know Coach Day.**

**JASON DAY:** Yeah.

**Q. How has their performance this season inspired you as just a golfer, and on top of that, have you messaged Coach Day at all?**

**JASON DAY:** No, I have not messaged, but I must admit I will say to all the people that were calling for his head, I'm like, come on. I know that we've lost against Michigan the last four seasons and that's big for Ohio people is we can't lose against Michigan. But I'd take a

championship over losing to Michigan every single year if we won the championship every single year.

It was nice to be able to see his success. Obviously since that Michigan game, the whole team, he's rallied the boys and they've played tremendous. It was fun to watch. I mean, that was a lot closer than we wanted. They looked like a blowout and then all of a sudden it wasn't.

It's amazing to see how many times you can get gut punched and then get up and rally the troops again and keep going. That's inspiring to see because if you've ever been to Columbus, Ohio, Ohio State football is the thing there. It is a religion. A lot of people support it and I support it. I've loved going to games and I've loved being a massive supporter of Ohio State for a very long time.

I was very, very happy last night and even into this morning because I was talking about it pretty much my whole nine holes.

**Q. Light one for you, your personal favorite club of all time and why?**

**JASON DAY:** My putter by far because that's the thing that I'm known for, even though I haven't putted good the last few tournaments in a row. My putter, for sure.

It's not the sexiest thing, you know what I mean? It's not like hitting a drive like a Rory McIlroy or anything like that, but you hit a clutch putt down the stretch when you need to, nothing better than that because you need it. When all else fails and you have the putter going, it's the thing that's going to keep you in the game. That's the reason why I love putting the most.

**Q. A specific one, Jason? A specific model?**

**JASON DAY:** I've always kind of -- I've changed a few times over the years, but my Ghost Spider putter. I've always used that since 2011. The models have slightly changed over time, but typically I go back to the one. It's a red putter. I kind of had the most success with it.

The putter I won the PGA Championship with, it was a black one. I gave that to Dash during a PGA Junior. He gave it back, but it was all dinged up. He never put a cover on it so it was completely destroyed. That thing is toast. It's sitting at home doing nothing now. But yeah, the red Spider putter is my go-to.

**Q. You saying Dash makes me think of watching you guys out on the green there when you won and Dash was this tall. I saw him at the Presidents Cup this year and --**

**JASON DAY:** He's nearly as tall as me. He's 5'11" and he's 12 years old.

**Q. Is that part of the memories of out here?**

**JASON DAY:** Yes.

**Q. Of Dash running around on the green?**

**JASON DAY:** For sure. It's even the memories of me sitting -- like 2018 I was sitting down after my round and they had the camera on me, I still remember it. Dash was there and I had little Lucy on my lap, you know what I mean?

So my kids have grown up through this tournament as well. That's why I have a lot of loyalty to this tournament because of the good memories, for that reason.

**MODERATOR:** One last one for me for the Australian media, when you won in 2015, you had a phenomenal year with five wins, No. 1 in the world. How special was that run and do you feel like you're back in the kind of form that you can get into that position again?

**JASON DAY:** Yeah, I think if I can match -- I was talking about my iron play. I've actually struck it really nice over the last two weeks and I've putted poorly. So if I can match those two things, but that's just golf. When you feel like you've got one thing, the other thing goes missing.

Yeah, I definitely think that not only is my body moving in the correct way, the correct direction, my swing's moving in the correct direction and also my mind. Like I feel like I'm preparing myself for another run.

**MODERATOR:** Great. We appreciate your time.