

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**J.B. HOLMES**

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**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome J.B. Holmes to the interview room here at the 2025 ISCO Championship.

J.B., it's your first appearance in this event, you're a local guy. What's your thoughts on making your first start at this championship here in Louisville?

**J.B. HOLMES:** Definitely excited to be here being close to home from where I grew up. Being in Kentucky's always fun. Course is in great shape, hopefully the weather will be good this week, but definitely looking forward to it.

**MODERATOR:** Have you had the opportunity to play this golf course much?

**J.B. HOLMES:** I didn't play it a lot when I was growing up, I think I played here once or twice. I came in early last week and played it a couple times, gotten familiar with it.

**MODERATOR:** Is there any particular hole that stood out to you when you first saw it that might be challenging?

**J.B. HOLMES:** The first hole's pretty tough. They converted that to a par 4, so that's a pretty difficult hole to start out on as a par 4 with the water running up against it. It's a good par 5 hole. It's a little short I guess for on Tour for it to be a par 5, but it's definitely going to be a -- four 4s there this week you'll be beating the field for sure.

**MODERATOR:** You played 11 events last year, the last one being in Utah, which was at the end of the season, I guess. What sort of have you been doing to stay in touch with the game and practicing, playing, what have you been doing?

**J.B. HOLMES:** Haven't been doing a lot. I've got a 3-year-old and a 7-year-old, I've been doing more of that stuff. Since it's gotten warmer I've been playing more and practicing. Mostly been hanging out with the boys, my two little boys and just being dad.

**Q. J.B., just to be essentially in your backyard out here, how special is this opportunity, and do you feel like when the fans show up that it will be kind of a motivating factor knowing that they will be watching one of their home state, hometown kind of guys?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** Yeah, anytime you've got a group of people behind you it always lifts you up and roots you on. Hopefully I'll be able to play well this week and get in the mix.



But usually when you have an event in Kentucky, usually fans come out pretty big. So I'm excited for the week, and hopefully I'll have a few people out there cheering for me.

**Q. You mentioned playing. What are some expectations that you're setting for yourself this weekend?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** I mean, obviously you want to win, that's the goal, but expectation-wise, I just want to come out and do the best I can, try to do my routine and just do the little things. If you do the little things right, then usually the bigger picture comes together. So I'm just going to focus on the stuff that I can control and hopefully in the end it will all come together.

**Q. J.B., you were a member of that 2008 Ryder Cup team that won at Valhalla. Would you say that would be the highlight of your career, and kind of explain what that was like, that particular week?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** It's definitely up there. Probably, I mean, anytime -- I won my first PGA event, that'd probably be the biggest, but being able to -- I guess emotionally the Ryder Cup's definitely up there. Being in your home state and the crowd that was electric there that week, and being able to be as close of a match as it was, and coming down to the end and hitting some key shots, definitely one of the biggest moments in my life in the golf world, for sure. It's always great to get out there and be at Valhalla and see that, I have great memories there. It's nice to be in Louisville again where some good things happened, for sure.

**Q. You're young, but how much do you anticipate playing into the future, and do you think about things like that at all?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** The main thing right now, I've got two young boys and I'm more focused on that stuff. I really don't know how much -- right now I'm not super focused on that. I'm more wanting to be there for them.

But I'm definitely going to continue playing some. Maybe later on I'll get the itch a little bit more to be a little bit more into it, but as of right now I'm definitely still playing, I'm still practicing but it's not the -- it's not my main goal right now.

**Q. I guess is Tucker the 3-year-old or the 7-year-old?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** The 7-year-old. Beckett's the 3-year-old and then yeah, Tucker's the 7-year-old.

**Q. What's his name?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** Beckett.

**Q. I'm from the newspaper in Lexington actually, and so obviously 2005 what you**



**guys were able to accomplish with the U.K. men's team, yourself individually, the team winning still its only SEC Championship. Can you just kind of reflect a little bit on what it meant, your time as a Wildcat and the things you guys were able to accomplish that still are standing the test of time in the record books?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** Yeah, we had a special group of guys down there, for sure. It means a lot. When I got into the program when I first signed, I think they were 116th in the country or something and then by the time my last two years we were top-10 in the country and won SECs.

So something that's never been done before in a big school like that's always a great honor to be able to accomplish. But it was great, we had a great team, a bunch of good players that came together there and got better every year. To be able to do something that nobody's ever done and still hasn't done at a school that big is pretty cool. It was an awesome time in my life. It was a lot of fun.

**Q. Can you just talk about how your approach to this tournament is, what that looks like and maybe what you've learned about this course thus far? I know you briefly touched on that, but maybe how your particular game plays here?**

**J.B. HOLMES:** Yeah, there's not a ton of drivers out here. They've got it nice and firm, so main thing is just being in the fairway. They've got the greens real firm, and the rough's long, and they've cut it where it's growing into it so it's difficult to get anything closer on the green if you're not in the fairway. More than distance this week, it's key to be in the fairway. So if you're struggling with driver or a club you're not sure, it's better off to probably club down and make sure you get it in the fairway.

And it's really firm, so like I said, the ball's rolling out. You can hit 3-wood 300 yards out here, so it's one where it's really going to be key getting it in the fairway. The greens are small, so if you miss irons in certain spots it will be tough to get up and down. But you do have a lot of wedges in your hand, so definitely should be some birdies.

**Q. What's your relationship like with Jimmy, the CEO --**

**J.B. HOLMES:** Jimmy Kirchdorfer? It's a great relationship, I love Jimmy, he's a great guy. Loves golf. I don't know if anybody loves golf more than he does.

As soon as he -- him and the group of guys, when they heard they were purchasing Valhalla, I called him and said, hey, man, I want to be in, I want to be a member there because I knew that he was going to run that place and -- to the best of his ability, and it's just gotten better and better with that ownership, and come up, get to play in it. It's a really fun club to be around. He's got a lot of good people in there. He's played there for a long time. He came to Riviera and played in the college event. Before the tournament in L.A. they had like a college event, he would bring some Kentucky players down and play.



Known Jimmy for a long time, super great guy, big heart. I think he's sponsoring a bunch of guys playing golf. Great guy, I love him. I was very appreciative for him to give me a spot this week. I know it's a dream come true for him to host a Tour event, he's excited about it.

But he's a fantastic guy and a great person to -- golf's lucky to have him, he's definitely growing the game.

**MODERATOR:** J.B., how would you assess your form coming into this week? What do you feel like you're doing well and maybe what do you feel like you need to work on a little bit?

**J.B. HOLMES:** You know, ball-striking I've been struggling, but I kind of have worked on it, and I think kind of everything's getting ready to click a little bit so I feel good going into it. You can always get better at chipping and putting, but I haven't really been playing a whole lot tournament golf. I've been playing but not tournament golf. So I guess it's really hard to say what I've been struggling or not in. But I've been working on it and I feel pretty good about where it's going and hopefully it will come together this week.

**MODERATOR:** Do your boys play golf?

**J.B. HOLMES:** The 7-year-old's just now getting into it, he's wanting to start playing. The 3-year-old's always -- anything with a ball, he's always loved it. So they go out on the course a little bit and play, but the 7-year-old, Tucker's really wanting to start playing, so I'm going to get him lessons because I've tried and he's like, Dad, I know what I'm doing. So obviously dad doesn't know anything about what I'm saying.

**MODERATOR:** We never do.

**J.B. HOLMES:** We'll get somebody set up for him.

It's exciting. I want to get them to play golf, I want to get them to where they can at least shoot in the 70s. I think that's such a tool to have for your life to be able to do business and other things. If they love it, great, they can keep playing. If they want to quit after that, that's up to them, but I want them to have that tool when they get older.

At some point they'll come back to it, I feel like. It's a hard game to get good at. At some point in your life if you're going to be where you can shoot mid 70s or whatever, playing golf five or six times a day, or five or six times a week and when you get older you've got a job and other responsibilities. As a kid it's a lot easier to do that. So once you can get to that level, even if you stop for a long period of time, you can pick it up a lot easier.

I hope that they enjoy it. I want to get them to that level because I think it's a crucial tool in life to open doors, to get opportunities for other things. From there on if they want to play tournament golf, that's up to them. Just want them to be happy and enjoy what they're doing.

**MODERATOR:** Do you think if they do get more involved, do you think that will motivate



you to continue playing?

**J.B. HOLMES:** I'll definitely -- yeah, if they're out there practicing, I can definitely show them a few things and I'll get back into it, absolutely.

More than anything, it's not that I don't want to play, it's just that I don't want to be gone 30 weeks a year, I don't want to be not having them there at school, they can't travel. I don't want them to not be there I guess is the main thing. It's not necessarily the golf part of it, it's more of I don't want to not be there for them. They're only kids once, I think it's a big part to -- they're learning a whole lot at this age and I want to be there for that and try to raise good human beings.

**MODERATOR:** Excellent. Well, we appreciate your time and hope you have a great week this week.

**J.B. HOLMES:** Thank you.

