

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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TOMMY FLEETWOOD

MODERATOR: Good afternoon. We would like to welcome the 2025 FedExCup champion, Tommy Fleetwood, to the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Tommy, you're making your season debut this week. Can we get some comments on what you've been up to the past couple months and what's it like to tee it up for another season on Tour?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, it's nice to be back. I haven't played a PGA TOUR event since August, which is, you know, the way that the schedule has worked for a lot of us that play both tours now.

I played quite a lot really through September through to November, finished my season there on the DP World Tour. Then there was a bit of a break, like a month break over Christmas. I always think that's a beautiful time of year. Lucky I have an amazing family and we enjoy that Christmastime and New Year.

Been back to it since. I played twice, two of the first events in Dubai and now here. Yeah, so the time kind of goes quick. Feel like I haven't played a lot anyway. I'm looking forward to being back into a rhythm and playing well.

Q. Tommy, I'm curious to ask you when you have a stretch like the end of last season and it feels like you're playing the best golf of your career, how do you sort of like alter your mindset to continue advancing your game? Like how do you avoid I guess feeling contentment with playing some of the best golf of your life?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah. Well, first of all, you take confidence from the golf that you've played. It was an amazing period of golf for me. I said at the time that I'm kind of hopeful that's how I play golf from this point on. But I'm realistic and I know that it was an amazing run for me.

There's different things. All throughout that period there's still plenty of things that I haven't achieved that I want to in the game, so they keep you focused and they keep you going and they keep you motivated.

I think I'm not as good of a golfer still as I'd like to be, so that's still there.

And, you know, different goals, different things come up that motivate you at the time. It's exciting for me to have, you know, winning the FedExCup and reaching a position in the world ranking I had never been to before is kind of exciting after a break to be working



towards maintaining the level that I hadn't reached before. I think that excites me as well. I could start the year well, I could start the year poorly. That's kind of golf and you have to manage your expectations with that as well.

I'm excited about that. Like as I go back to, I've reached a level I haven't really been to before, so trying to maintain that as well as keep getting better is exciting.

Q. Tommy, I think Rory said at one point that he worried that you were too nice to win golf tournaments. Did you have to change something about yourself? Have you kind of proven that maybe nice guys can win out here?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I hope so. Hopefully the same amount of people that liked me before still like me now.

I think, yeah, I don't know what that stigma is about like too nice to win or nice guys -- you know, nice guys can win, of course. I think I've always prided myself on being a good person, a nice guy, but I also love playing golf and competing.

I just, for whatever I hadn't done before or hadn't won tournaments or hadn't gone my way, I felt like I just continued to learn and grow as a competitor as well.

But no, I definitely looked at things and tried to analyze what I did right and what I did wrong. Hopefully Rory still thinks I'm a nice guy.

Q. Tommy, just seeing Rosey win at the Farmers in the way that he did, how impressive is it, 45 years old, he's No. 3 in the world, just to see him do that and if there's anything from his game or anything about his approach that you've tried to emulate?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, he has an amazing work ethic like so many do, but I think he's done a really great job I think both staying fit and staying very, very motivated.

I've always been very close to Justin. I've enjoyed being around him. I've learned tons from him like being around him and I think he's very, very knowledgeable about the game. But his desires and his motivation on how he goes about it and how he works has always been very, very impressive. It's interesting to me because golf is a sport that offers itself to longevity. Like we can play for a long time and everybody knows you can play golf for a long time, but yeah, it's one of the rarer things to get to that sort of mid 40s level now and be playing as well as Justin is and to be World No. 3. But he's doing an amazing job and he's not really slowing down.

Q. Do you remember when you would have first met him?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: No. I mean, probably one of my early days on Tour. We actually became very close in 2017. We played a lot together and battling it out for the Race to Dubai



in 2017 and I think we became very close during that period and yeah, spent a lot of time with each other since.

Q. I'm curious your thoughts on this tournament, this event. I mean, it's so dramatically changed identities three years ago from the only sort of full-fledged pro-am and known for Bill Murray and all that to now getting the top-10 players in the world and very golf centric.

What do you think about that? Does that make sense for you in your mind long term here at Pebble?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I mean, I think the tournament, yeah, deserves to be one of the biggest and best events on the Tour. I think just the venue itself deserves that.

Yeah, I only played it once, but again, there's always an element of my travel schedule and where I've always lived and stuff on why I would always start the season later.

I like the pro-am formats and I think when you have these pro-ams, there's always a bunch of them, you never know who you're going to meet and you never know friendships you're going to make, and there's always amazing minds and amazing people that are at these events.

And I think events also, you want some uniqueness as well to the tournaments. I think this event definitely has that.

I guess at the moment, yeah, it's got the best of both there. It's a very unique tournament. It's always had that pro-am format, the venue is amazing and it's one of the elevated events on Tour now and I think it probably deserves all those things.

Q. In the years you've been playing kind of a regular or full PGA TOUR schedule, what are some of the biggest changes you've noticed? You can't mention money.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I guess the tournaments and the fields are different, so that's one thing.

I think the game is always evolving I think even to when I started to play. Like there's a different style of not necessarily coaching. The game is way more analytical than even when I came out, which is not that long ago. I think the style of practicing probably has changed since I've been out. Standard's definitely higher. Like the depth of players gets better and better year on year. And the game kind of continues to grow.

But yeah, I think most of those things. I think the game evolves and I think you have seen it evolve in the style of play. I don't know, I feel courses have probably got harder as well to a certain extent. Like courses, they manage to get them firmer and faster at times.



Yeah, everything just kind of elevates bit by bit, that adds up.

Q. From the very first time you got a professional card, does it feel a little more like work than it did when you started? Does that make sense?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, yeah, totally, yeah.

Not really. I make a big effort to make sure that I'm still very passionate about the game. I think it comes up so often that people would say, "I just want to play like a kid again" or putt like a kid.

I think it's very easy to, especially when you put so much work in because one of the hardest things about golf or sport or whatever is that you generally don't get out of it what you put in. It's frustrating.

So I think it's very easy to lose motivational passion. Like you say, it can become a job. Like I've always felt like I want to make sure I do the right things and I enjoy the game. Like I love playing golf and I love learning. I think there's some great people out on Tour and I think you can always learn something new every day.

Yeah, I have my days where I feel it's pretty like rubbish, I don't play well or the weather's rubbish and I'm having a bad day or whatever it is. I'm still, I think, yeah, it's important to remember how much you wanted this life and how much like you love it really.

Q. And then one more, without having to make you think too much on a Wednesday here, but as the Tour moves toward a schedule of bigness, for lack of a better word, do you think it would be a mistake on their part to not include some key international/European events in part of whatever they're trying to do?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I don't know on that one. Look, the game is a global game, but also definitely as of right now, and it has been for a while, I'm sure it will carry on doing that, the sort of global ecosystem of golf works its way up to the PGA TOUR. So wherever the PGA TOUR is, that's where people want to compete at the highest level.

I don't know. Wherever the events are, wherever the biggest events are in the world and the best events, that's where we want to play.

I do think there are amazing places around the world that have so much to offer from a fan base, from amazing golf courses and we would, yeah, be very happy with the opportunity to sort of play as many of them as possible.

But equally, like we have a great tour and play amazing places.

Q. As you probably knew, this place is historic for weather that is questionable and you've probably played everywhere and had all kinds of weather. Did you know what



you would be getting into here and does it bother you at all?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: No, it doesn't bother me. I would still much rather play in 80 degrees and sunshine, sure, but it doesn't -- whatever the challenge is, then you're here to play in whatever the weather is.

I think, like you say, it's one of the elements that the place is known for, the unpredictability of the weather. Just like today you could be getting hailed on for five minutes and it could be sunshine like this straight after that.

It is unpredictable. I think Pebble Beach especially as a golf course can play so different throughout the day so you have to be ready for everything. I think you just have to look forward to that challenge. Again, whatever weather, you stand on the 18th tee at Pebble Beach and you probably should be grateful that you're there for it and then go hit the golf shot.

It's a special place. I honestly as well, I played here maybe, I think I played here five tournaments. I played the tournament in 2019 and then I played the U.S. Open and then I played the past two years here, I generally remember like twice playing Pebble Beach in the sunshine or something. So I've not had the best run of it, but that's what comes with it. I'd love to get a couple beautiful days this week, but whatever the weather is, then we'll just go for it.

Q. Tommy, what made you decide to make Dubai your home and to build a golf academy there for kids?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: The opportunity came that we could, that we spoke about opening up the academy there. We had always spent a lot of time there. You know, growing up on the DP World Tour, we spent a lot of time in Dubai. Like it sort of, the majority of players there will practice there for warm weather and we'll play a lot of tournaments there, so we knew a lot of people there.

There was some great opportunities for school for the kids and we just thought, you know, we never really moved away anywhere as a family and we just thought we would give it a go. And we were in a lucky position where you're moving from England and we could keep the house so if everything went wrong and we didn't like it, we would move back.

But it's been great. We've been there for four years. The family are very, very happy, which is the main thing for me.

In general, like I would say it doesn't matter as much where we live for me because I travel so much that whenever I come back, like as long as everyone's there, like I'm fine. But it has been an amazing place to live and I think it's been -- it's helped my golf in a positive way for sure.



Yeah, it probably seems unconventional, probably the only person that's moved like further away from America for getting on the PGA TOUR. It's been great for us.

And we're lucky the academies are doing great. That's like a passion of mine that I would like to grow in the future around the world, but for now we're doing a great job there and we'll see what happens.

Q. Having won on the PGA TOUR and the FedExCup, did that take a monkey off your back or did it almost ramp up the pressure to now is your window to like win a major?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: No, I don't think -- I don't think it added pressure to me. I think for sure I felt the pressure to try and win. The longer that goes on, the harder it gets, even though like I said at the time I just keep putting yourself there, it will happen. I still believe all the things that I said at the time, like just because I won once doesn't mean that stops. I still have to keep putting myself into contention if I want to win again and win more. That's the first thing, like try and put yourself there, try and do the right things when you're there and see how it goes from there.

I always try and find the positives of whether it be, as you say, is this my window to win a major. Try and find the positives in that. Like I would rather you be asking me that question than not mentioning it at all because I would then not be doing that great.

I try and find the positives in that and manage your expectation from there. Sure, I played unbelievable golf in the summer last year. With that comes higher expectations, you want to continue to do that. But equally, like you're not going to play that well all the time. I hope I do, but if I don't, it's important to not think that I'm doing things wrong because I'm not doing it. It's just that it's the game, it's not that easy.

It's like having high expectations but having a high level of acceptance with whatever comes. And hopefully I continue to play great and hopefully, hopefully this is my window to win majors and it's a big like massive window and I can win like a bunch.

We'll see what happens. I'm very happy that that would be a question that you would ask me and hope that it could come true.

Q. Going back to the earlier question about being too nice, did Butch Harmon, did he do anything to make you tougher?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: No. I think it's important to be yourself. I think anytime you're trying to be something that you're not, things get just like difficult. So again, I just try and be myself. If that's what I am, if I'm like a really nice person, then that's great, like I'm happy with that.

But no, Butch, the work that we've done over the few years, I said back in Atlanta, the best compliment I could give the last three years of working with Butch Harmon was when I felt under the most pressure and my swing gets sort of gone through the middle stretch of the



round on Sunday, I could find it on the back of the 12th tee with a few practice swings and kind of reset myself. That's the biggest compliment I could give our work, like that moment there and the next few holes that I played.

Butch is an incredible coach. He's not just a technical guy. He's very smart, he knows what he's doing with the swing, but he's an incredible coach and he makes you feel good. We can talk about courses and go through shots there. Like I love working with him and I gain confidence from just working with him and having the trust that he's doing the right things for me.

Q. Didn't the Ryder Cup prove you were tough enough?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I don't know.

Q. Was that the hardest environment you've ever played in?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I don't know. I think that -- I mean, I probably got off mildly with the crowd, I thought they were OK with me.

I think whatever happens that week, we were very prepared for as a team and I think it showed. I think Luke did an amazing job of preparing us and we were an unbelievably like close group that felt experienced. I think we felt like we, because there was so many of us that had played the one in Rome, I felt like we just felt like this was part of our story, like our Ryder Cup story and part of what hopefully will be like part of the Ryder Cup legacy for Europe for a long time. I just think we were very well prepared.

It was one of those things, you're playing an away Ryder Cup, like they're not going to be on your side. You know, me personally didn't have a terrible experience with the fans, maybe because I'm too nice, but it was tough at times and it was an away Ryder Cup and it was a hard atmosphere. But with that comes the most amazing feeling when you manage to accomplish something like all together. You know, we can all look back on that and it was great memories for us.

Q. What annoys you?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: You.

Q. Besides me. Pitching up a softball here, Tommy. Like what's your pet peeve? Like people wearing hats in a restaurant or people not putting their shopping carts back? What's your one thing?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Traffic. Struggle sitting in a car in traffic.

Q. That's why you moved to Dubai?



TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah. Well, normally on a range or a golf course.

I don't know. I think in general there's probably plenty of things that annoy me, but I'm kind of pretty relaxed off the golf course really. I mean, what have I got to complain about or get annoyed about?

I get annoyed, of course I do, but it's not really like -- I get annoyed at golf, for sure, trying my best. And I have in general, like I have the same thoughts and feelings as everybody else. I probably just seem a bit more relaxed. But other than that, what is there to -- what have I got to like get angry about or moan about in general?

Q. Traffic?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, traffic. Nobody likes traffic, do they? Nobody likes sitting in traffic.

MODERATOR: The Tour has a special guest. Dylan, do you have a question?

Q. Hi, Tommy. I was wondering, one of the hardest things for me, and I'm sure a lot of amateurs can relate, is you can hit it perfect, like lights out one day and then the next day you can't hit a ball to save your life.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Tell me about it.

Q. What happened or what did you do to get to a point where pretty much like day after day on Tour for the most part you can hit it like relatively pure, relatively straight and have misses that are manageable that you can play with?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I mean, I wish that was true, I wish I could do that.

I think on every level what you're talking about, that never changes. And golf is still a game that nobody seems to be able to understand.

Going back to the, I don't understand why I can hit so many balls and do so much practice and hit a great shot and I know what I should do, I know that that's what I'm supposed to do, why can't I just do that all the time?

And that never really changes. I think we like as professional golfers, we have the luxury of doing it all day and practicing all day. I think that probably helps us with our worst shots, kind of just better than most.

But like I've always felt like I try and practice to have an all-around game where when something's off, if I can just kind of get that part around and it not be too detrimental, the other things will get me around, like chipping or putting. Or if I'm not putting well, I'll try and hit it well and just nudge it up to the hole and get off and try and work on my putting later. If



I'm not chipping well, maybe I have to think about missing it in a place where it's not too difficult because I can manage it there.

Like what you're talking about, unfortunately it just never changes, but you just get better at the worst stuff and you learn to manage it.

MODERATOR: Tommy, thank you for the time. Good luck this week.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Thanks, guys. Thank you.

