

ROUND 3 PRESS CONFERENCE
March 8, 2026

ZACH JOHNSON (-11)



Q. When you first started, what was going through your mind?

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, it's still kind of a whirlwind. I'm in somewhat in awe, certainly honored and humbled. Just grateful that I've got an ensemble of individuals that allow me to do what I do. They have for quite some time, and I don't deserve it but I'm grateful I have the opportunity.

Q. This is your first win in over a decade, 3,884 days to be exact.

ZACH JOHNSON: OK.

Q. What does that say about you and how you can keep grinding and eventually get back --

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, those that know me well know that I'm a competitor -- as far as my work goes, I'm a competitor before I am a golfer. I just love to compete.

So knowing that now, it's hard, it's just hard to win. Doesn't matter where it is, doesn't matter what it is, it's just hard. So I think about the work, I think about the time, I think about again the people. I'm a people person, product of many great people. Every win's sweet and I hope this is the start of something really special.

Q. You mentioned earlier in the week there's a lot of big names out here. Did you ever look up at a leaderboard today and realize those names were chasing you?

ZACH JOHNSON: I didn't really look at a leaderboard much. You're talking about guys, certainly some Hall of Famers, right? You're talking about individuals that I've been chasing for decades.

It's not going to get any easier, I know that. I'm not getting any younger, but this one's sweet. I'm going to relish it, I'm going to cherish it because I know at any point in time any of those guys can go on a, you know, 10-week run of wins. So it's hard and I'm going to enjoy this one.

Q. The conditions this week have been kind of a storyline.

ZACH JOHNSON: Sure.

Q. It felt like every time you had a (inaudible) putt today especially (inaudible)?



ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, I was trying to stay, cliché, I was trying to hit fairways, stay below the hole and give myself opportunities. There was a couple times where the slopes of the greens, the yardages, the wind in particular was hard to manage and it got the best of me, but I was able to make a few putts that kept me in it. Certainly a couple nice saves that settled me down. And I hit a lot of great shots coming down the last four or five holes in particular, I hit a lot of great shots.

Q. You're the 24th man to win on the Korn Ferry Tour, the PGA TOUR and now the PGA TOUR Champions. What does it mean to you that you've been able to sustain success that long?

ZACH JOHNSON: You know what, I've always been about consistency, that's always what I strived to do. Obviously I want to get better. I don't want to get stagnant or complacent, I want to get better each and every week. Fortunately I think those ideals and notions were stuck back in my Korn Ferry years. There's great players everywhere and those tours in particular are great about finding your way, and obviously the PGA TOUR is the premiere tour and I was fortunate to have wins at every level. Now that I'm 50, I'm full embrace on the Champions Tour.

Q. We started the week reflecting on your success (inaudible).

ZACH JOHNSON: People. My journey's about people. I mean, I don't mind the work, I don't mind putting time in, I don't mind the energy, I don't mind the sweat, the cuts, whatever you want to call it, the knicks and knacks of what this game can do. But I'm a product of phenomenal people that want the best for me and in turn I want to give them everything because they're amazing individuals.

Q. I was in Atlanta 2004 when you won your first PGA TOUR event. How does that sort of compare -- I guess it's a lot different (inaudible)?

ZACH JOHNSON: I think there's a lot of parallels, there's a lot of parallels. You don't know what to expect on either tour, you don't know what it's going to be. You know it's going to be hard.

So looking back on it now, I had some of my best golf this week just like I did back in 2004. A lot of parallels. Just emotionally trying to manage, embrace and manage those emotions coming down the stretch I think was really the main parallel.

