

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES
July 12, 2026



ZACH JOHNSON (-15)

MODERATOR: Zach, congratulations.

ZACH JOHNSON: Thank you.

MODERATOR: You took a few big deep breaths after you got off the 18th hole. What was going through your head at that moment?

ZACH JOHNSON: I probably kind of alluded to it early on this week, like it was not just gibberish or -- I love this place. I love it. I've loved it since I first stepped foot on it. I just think it fits me -- it fits my eye, but it fits me in the sense that you can't fake it around here. May have looked like that a little bit today, but you have to execute shots. It requires, for me, every aspect of my game to be on. And I love it, I love it.

The breaths probably were a little bit of a sigh of relief to be honest. It's been a long time coming. I think I've had a few opportunities to win here back in the day, but hopefully more. Again, I'm a glass half full on that one. Sounds like there's things that have to happen, which is fine. This place is just, like I said, it's special.

My game's good. It didn't look like that probably for a lot of the day, but it is good. I kept telling myself that like you know what you're doing, just get the ball in the fairway and execute. That was easier said than done.

Thankfully, I had a cushion. Thankfully, I played great the first three days.

MODERATOR: And you also made a slight adjustment. Tell us about the glove for those who haven't heard.

ZACH JOHNSON: I was just like, man, pulling my hand, feels like I've got like sunscreen on it or oil on it or something, so I went to an older glove. Yeah, I told Cookie that. I was like hey, switched gloves.

I'm not superstitious, I don't believe in that kind of stuff. At the same time, I did hit it to a foot so maybe I've got to do that more often, I don't know.

You know, I made two good par putts on 14, 15, and after that there was some really good executed shots. A lot of solid, a lot of middle of the face, just proper golf, and obviously the scorecard showed that coming in. However, 18 was lucky. Prior to that was really good.

Q. Seemed like 11 was a pretty big hole in the scheme of things.



ZACH JOHNSON: Holy moly.

Q. OK then.

ZACH JOHNSON: It was. You know, if you look at the leaderboard right now, you would be like, well, even if you got it up and down, it wouldn't be that big -- that thing dripped in. I mean, I'm trying to get it in a six-foot circle and it dripped in. That was pure fortuitous. I executed a really good pitch shot. Awful tee shot. Actually hit a good second shot, just misjudged the lie. I didn't think it would jump. I hit the wrong club and it unfortunately hit a gentleman.

Q. What did you hit there?

ZACH JOHNSON: It was an open-faced 7-iron and I should have hit an 8, arguably a 9. I didn't think it was going to jump like that. Trying to go over the trees and I figured if it comes out soft, it's going to hit that tree with an 8, so I went with a 7.

You know, that's probably not the best of examples. There was other ones where like I know where I can't go and I stayed -- long's not ideal. At the same time, there's plenty of green to work with. Plenty of green. I didn't want it to go quite that long. Certainly the best pitch I've hit this week. Again, 18 was lucky. That one was perfect. I don't know how far by it would have gone, less than three feet probably, two feet.

Kind of a turning point. I mean, especially when -- I wasn't looking at the leaderboard that much, I didn't know where Miguel stood. He had an 8- to 12-footer give or take. It was kind of a reversal sort of thing. You know, it didn't come down to that fortunately. However, it was a big turning point for me just to get on the right side of things.

Q. Zach, how much was patience a virtue especially on that front nine?

ZACH JOHNSON: It was massive, massive. Right out of the box required -- that was actually a really good 5, a really good 5. Thankfully it wasn't that long of a putt, but I ran to the next tee. I told my caddie, I'm like, in a very odd way it kind of felt good. I mean, it felt good like I'm alive. Yesterday was just so cookie cutter easy, it was good to actually get some electricity going and get some feeling going in a really bizarre way.

The next hole was perfect. That was a tap-in birdie, two great executed shots. I had 25 feet probably for eagle, 20 feet, I'm not sure.

Yeah, and then after that I don't think I hit a fairway till 13. That's one of those where like I know -- again, I know -- I'm hedging my bet on the tee. I'm not finding the fairway. I'm hitting the middle of the face for the most part, but I'm not finding the fairway. Hedging my bet in the sense like OK, that pin, the right side of the fairway is terrible, stay left. All of those feelings, all of those mental sentiments were going through my brain.



Even on the second shot, like OK, you've got to stay left of this pin, right of that pin. It's not like it's not obvious. At the same time, that was -- the first nine holes, even the first 11 holes maybe, course management was a big factor in my scorecard.

Q. That shot on 16 over the water hazard that got a beautiful roll was a dagger. What was going through your head on that approach? It obviously worked out perfectly.

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, kind of said it, after the two really good par putts on 14 and 15, actually hit a lot of good shots 13 through 18, I just didn't see the results of them.

That one there in particular, I felt great. I mean, I had a perfect number. It was one of those where I had 99 yards to the hole, which based on where the pin is -- you guys know where the pin is, it's barely over the water. Hey, it's 100 yards, the pin's the front of the green, there's nothing short of that pin. I'm like, it's a perfect 56-degree, I've just got to execute. Stay left of the pin. I know how that slope runs. Trying to hit it 104, 105. It landed 105 and the rest is history.

I remember Tiger Woods almost making a couple 2s on that pin. It's one where if you have the proper number, you feel like you could be somewhat aggressive given the conditions, no wind and receptive greens. It wasn't easy. I'm just saying it was one that I felt like that was proper execution, which gave me a lot of confidence going to 17, and 17 is probably one of the better holes I played today.

Q. Zach, just talk about the year overall. You're playing really good though.

ZACH JOHNSON: Thank you. Yeah, I've been feeling good for quite some time. Even late last year I felt good. The fall, I didn't play a ton on the PGA TOUR. Took some time off and I played the first two weeks out west, made the cuts on Tour but nothing of any substance. Felt great.

Again, my team knows this, my focus for the most part, especially in my off-weeks, even tournaments weeks, is my body. If my body's in a position, posture, stature that is essentially somewhat pain free, I feel like I can do some good work. Fundamentals have been good. Still trying to get better in some respects and a lot of that's also gym work. Been doing some stuff in the gym lately that I've seen some benefit, which has been encouraging.

Yeah, I've got a great ensemble of individuals, great guys that I trust, and despite not playing on the PGA TOUR anymore, we're still trying to get better at the game and fully have embraced, accepted the Champions Tour. It's fantastic.

I'm blessed to have great dudes. I mean, again, it's an individual game. To most, it's the furthest thing from it to me. We've got a good thing going, caddie all the way to my coaches and, you know, heck, home life's good, they let me go play. That's what I love to do, I love to compete. I don't take that for granted.



Q. Got to ask you about your comment on the 18th green about bittersweet leaving here and won't defend here next year.

ZACH JOHNSON: Sure. Yeah, certainly more sweet than bitter. Just the mere fact that I know sounds like we're not coming back next year. I just, you know, I'm the ever optimist. I feel like this place and its history, it's withstood the test of time. This northeast community of Ohio, all of it, I feel like they deserve a championship.

Hopefully those that are significantly smarter than me can put something together in the future whenever that may be. You know, I just hope somebody can play here at some point, whether it's the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry, whomever. Us again on the Champions Tour, that would be amazing, too. I just think it deserves it, I think the community deserves it.

I get it, there's a lot of dot the Is, cross the Ts, it's not easy. It's a full year preparation for our seven days and I fully understand that. I've got a foundation and we do an event and it's work.

Hopefully, again I'm hopeful and optimistic that at some point somebody will be back here because it's too good.

Q. So obviously you've played here many times before. Did the course -- did it feel any different this time around, not necessarily the course but the atmosphere and obviously a different tour this time?

ZACH JOHNSON: Sure. I think everything off the golf course feels a little bit different. My peer group is all the guys that, you know, I'm used to playing with and used to beat the pulp out of me, so that hasn't changed.

Yeah, I don't know if it felt any different. You know, hard to say. I said it earlier, like the golf course has withstood the test of time. It's still really good.

There's probably some tee boxes -- there are tee boxes that we did not play or we played up or what have you, but we're 50 and over. This place, it's still really good.

It's kind of unfortunate that the course got -- well, just the humidity and the rain we had early just kept it really soft. There was a point there mid week where we were starting to get some bounce and you really had to pay attention to your spin control, distance control, trajectory control because it mattered. For the most part the last two days it was kind of point and shoot. Played it up yesterday, I think. Yeah, played it up yesterday.

But all that to say that's Mother Nature, we don't have control over that. I think the superintendent and his team did a tremendous job allowing us to get back out there.

The first hole on Friday on 10, I had 133 yards to the hole and I had to hit it -- I had to go



back seven yards to get out of casual water, so I went to 140. That's part of the game.

All I'm saying is it's impressive given what Mother Nature did that everybody got this place in the position it was in. It was still spectacular.

MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Zach.

ZACH JOHNSON: My pleasure.

