

**ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES**  
**August 2, 2026**

**ZACH JOHNSON (-18)**



**Q. Zach, many congratulations, Your fourth win on the PGA TOUR Champions, how does that sound?**

**ZACH JOHNSON:** It sounds too good to be true if I'm going to be perfectly honest. It's amazing. Obviously I've -- I've played nice. I mean, that goes without saying. And I've earned it. It has not been easy.

At the same time, it just -- you know, when you have successes, you really reflect pretty easily. You think about -- it's easy for me, I think about the people, I think about the individuals that support me on and off the golf course. I think about my family obviously is paramount giving me the ability, freedom to go do what I love to do. You know, the good Lord, win or lose, missed cut or made cut, is ever there. So I'm eternally blessed.

**Q. Thirty-one on the front nine with three birdies to start with. Is that the dream start?**

**ZACH JOHNSON:** That was a dream start. Yeah, I hit it -- I played really good on the front. Birdieing 7 was probably the one that really absolutely kickstarted it because I would argue that's probably the hardest hole today. But I hit two of the best shots I've hit consecutively and managed to make a putt. Yeah, making the turn having -- I hadn't looked at a leaderboard, that was my game. I mean, the way I see it, being in contention really doesn't start till the back nine if you will.

I've got to give this man a hug. Love that guy.

Yeah, so anyway, the start was a catapult, it was huge.

**Q. And that birdie on 11 seemed to seal the deal for us in the box anyway. Seemed like a pivotal moment.**

**ZACH JOHNSON:** I don't know. It was a gift. Should have been -- 11 and 12 I really should have had ample birdie putts there and I really did not, but I managed to make one of them.

I just knew Stewart was going to make a birdie, a couple birdies even 15 through 18. He's a champion, that's what Stewart does. Yeah, I kept the pedal down.

My caddie, Smitty, and I had a good game plan. Hitting two good shots on 18 and really had a nice read on it, arguably one of the best putts I've hit.

I feel very grateful. I lipped some putts in that probably could have lipped out and that's the



name of the game.

**Q. What a better word for the host Ernie Els and what a great job he's done here at Vilamoura.**

**ZACH JOHNSON:** Yeah, I traveled with Ernie and Liezl down here and you could tell he was -- I've hosted events before, it's a lot of stress. At the same time, the man is pure class, pure integrity. And what he's done to this facility is beyond impressive. I say that because utmost respect in the sense it's really good for the pros, it's really good for high quality golfers, it's really good for the beginner or the amateur. That's a hard design to figure out, but he did it.

The golf course is one thing, the area's a whole other. This place, the Algarve, this Vilamoura area and Portugal in general, this is my second time here and I love it. It's an easy place to come and a hard place to leave.

**Q. Great playing, congratulations.**

**ZACH JOHNSON:** Thank you very much.

