

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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JACKSON KOIVUN



MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Jackson Koivun to the interview room here at the Wyndham Championship.

Jackson, it's your second start in this event, T-5 last year, but I know you played a number of junior events here. Just what are you excited about coming back to Sedgfield?

JACKSON KOIVUN: I think arguably this place has one of the best greens on the PGA TOUR. It's refreshing to get out onto some bermuda after some past weeks on bent. Not that bent isn't good, just I prefer bermuda a little more. Feel like out here I can make a lot of putts.

MODERATOR: Recent victory at the 3M Open just a few weeks ago. I imagine it comes with a lot of different challenges following up after that, a lot of changes in your life. How have you been handling that, managing that and what sort of differences have there been?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, it's been a little different after 3M, but just trying to keep my head down and focused on the end goal of making it into the FedExCup Playoffs. Got a little bit of work to do. Just trying to focus on my goal.

Q. Jackson, you've in the past described your putting as your superpower and of course this week the greens are some of the most difficult on the PGA TOUR. What kind of advantage do you feel your putting skill gives you on a course like this as to some of the more benign bentgrass golf courses like 3M, John Deere, et cetera?

JACKSON KOIVUN: To be able to putt well here is definitely good. I feel like if you hit a good putt, it goes in. But at the end of the day scores will be low for everyone. Definitely using putting this week as a power for momentum I think will be helpful.

Q. Saw you grinding on the practice putting green pretty hard yesterday. What are you working on specifically?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, I didn't make a lot in Detroit. I feel like I hit the ball really well, drove it really well, just never really got many putts to go. I just wanted to get out here, get on some good greens and see some putts go in, get some confidence back going into Thursday.

Q. With all the newness that you're experiencing, how nice is it to come to a golf course that you don't just have experience on but you have past success on as well?



JACKSON KOIVUN: It's great. Got great memories here from junior golf and from last year. Just excited to get out here and compete against some really good players.

Q. The attention you've drawn here in the last month or so, are you pretty good at keeping that away, boxing yourself out of it or have you allowed yourself -- I mean, Brandt Snedeker's in here talking about you yesterday and Presidents Cup. Can you just shove that away or do you allow yourself to listen to any of it?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, I definitely hear it and I appreciate all the kind words people have to say about me. I know there's a lot of flutter about certain teams and things I might be able to accomplish. But at the end of the day I like to tell myself good golf takes care of everything, so I can just kind of tune that out and just go enjoy being out here on the PGA TOUR. I should be able to accomplish some of my goals.

Q. A month ago, I mean obviously you have a lot of goals and everything, but realistically what do you think you might have been looking forward to in the next four weeks a month ago before you won?

JACKSON KOIVUN: The next four weeks?

Q. I mean, before -- when did the Playoffs -- obviously the win brought the Playoffs into the picture. But if you didn't have the opportunity this week, what do you think you would have been doing next week?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Probably still getting acquainted to spending some time down in Florida. I just moved down there.

I had full faith that I was going to be able to give myself a shot at the Playoffs, that was never out of the picture in my mind. Obviously the win at 3M really boosted that, but I still felt like I could go out there and play some good golf and give myself a chance.

Q. You've probably been asked this before, but what's the best thing about winning on the PGA TOUR?

JACKSON KOIVUN: You know, growing up it's just a lifelong dream to become a PGA TOUR winner. Just that feeling when the final putt drops and they hand you the trophy, it's quite special because you work so hard for that moment. Just indescribable feeling.

Q. Not looking for your address obviously, but where in South Florida did you move to? Are you going to have roommates? Where are you going to play out of?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, I moved down to Palm Beach Gardens, kind of the Jupiter area. I'm at Bear's Club and Panther National. Only spent about two weeks down there, still getting acquainted down there, but it's been really fun and helpful to my golf game.



Q. (No microphone.)

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, it was always the plan to go down to Florida. I moved right before the U.S. Open. I've definitely spent some time down there, but yeah, that was always the plan.

Q. Jackson, I was with you at Sea Island when you won the SEC Championship. Wondering since then what are some of the fun things that you've got to do since turning pro that you might not have gotten to do if some of this stuff didn't happen, outside of the win of course?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Probably just traveling, seeing new places. Just trying to figure out what I can do with friends on the road that isn't golfing. Like I went to the movies this week so that was fun, saw the new Spiderman movie. Yeah, it's just been an adjustment. Needing to find more things to do off the golf course, but I'm getting better at it.

Q. Have you gotten recognized at all out in public? Has that started to happen yet?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Here and there. Sometimes at the airport when I'm carrying some golf clubs around, but nothing too crazy.

Q. Did you catch any fish?

JACKSON KOIVUN: No, no, I did not unfortunately. Yeah, I tried, I definitely tried. I think I used all my luck on the golf course.

Q. You had a chance to play with Sneds yesterday. Just curious, are you viewing this week and maybe some of the Playoff weeks depending on how far you advance as an audition for that American team?

JACKSON KOIVUN: It's hard not to think about it like that, but just try to take it one day, one shot at a time. If I can go out there and play like I did at 3M and play like I know I'm capable, hopefully I can put together a nice audition tape for Sneds.

Q. Much has been made about your composure inside the ropes. Through all these new experiences in the last say 12 to 18 months, has there been a moment inside the ropes where maybe you've felt something that you haven't made betrayed on the outside?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, there's definitely some nerves. I like to tell myself if I'm not nervous that means I don't care. I think nerves are a good thing.

Managing those nerves I've gotten a lot better at. No matter what tournament you're playing in, it's hard not to be nervous if you're leading and you really want to win obviously. It's hard to not to kind of suppress those nerves but I definitely get nervous, I'm not afraid to admit



that. Definitely nervous and excited.

Q. Did you think you would have success this quickly?

JACKSON KOIVUN: I -- I'm not quite sure. It's like there's no lack of faith in my mind that I can come out here and win, but doing it in three events, I wouldn't say it's surprising, it's just like it hasn't quite set in. It's like kind of shocking almost.

I try to go into every tournament thinking I can win, but you know when you've got great players competing and playing well behind you, you're definitely testing yourself and pushing yourself to the limits and seeing how much work you put in and how that's paying off. So definitely a relief, but it's kind of a loaded question.

Q. Here's another one. Snedeker made it out like it was kind of an accident that you guys wound up playing. But he said you approached him, so you must have wanted to get that opportunity.

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, kind of. Me and Ben James, he's one of my closest friends out here and we pretty much play a practice round every Tuesday. Ben and Sneds have the same coach. So I texted Ben like, hey, you want to play like we always do on Tuesday? He's like, yeah, I think Sneds is joining us. I was like, perfect.

Q. Do you feel any pressure being the bubble guy to make the Playoffs and extend this season?

JACKSON KOIVUN: It's definitely in the back of my mind, but like I said, I'm just trying to take it one shot at a time and go out there and compete and try and get in contention again.

Q. Do you have reservations already for Memphis?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Not quite. I'm not sure yet.

Q. What's been the coolest thing that's happened since you've won (No microphone.)

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, I got quite a few texts, some cool names that I know but it was just nice to receive a text from them. Some big Auburn legends either reposted me on Instagram or shoot me a text. It was cool to see some recognition from some people that I might not think would know much about who I am.

Q. Anybody you want to tell us?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Seeing Bo Jackson repost my story, repost my win was pretty cool. Obviously he's one of the greatest athletes to ever play, just a huge Auburn legend. That was kind of one that stood out to me.



Q. And how do you think last year's tie for 5th here (inaudible). How will that hope you?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, I know I can go out there here and play well. It's just exciting to get back here and see how I've grown and what I can do this year.

MODERATOR: One more from me. We've seen a ton of success recently from a lot of young players on all tours around the world. What are some of the aspects that you think in modern junior and amateur golf allow that to happen for some of these young players on different tours?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, I just think guys are getting better younger, getting stronger faster. Just seems like the leap from college to professional golf has gotten a little smaller.

Obviously my good friend, Tommy Morrison, has been turning it up on Korn Ferry, and seeing Thor win last week, it's just giving guys the pathway to get to the PGA TOUR is obviously super helpful. Just the way college is run, the tournaments, the competition, it's just making guys that much better younger.

Q. When the schedule changes in '28 and you have the two different tours, do you think anyone from PGA TOUR U should be in the top track or do you think there should be multiple players?

JACKSON KOIVUN: I'm not quite sure. I'm not really in the position to say, I can't make that decision. Just the way it's been formatted now, I'm just really curious to see how they finally go through with that and whether they give spots to the Champions Tour or give five to Challenger, I don't know. I'm not quite sure what's -- the full picture of what the PGA TOUR's going to look like, but I'm getting just as curious as you are.

Q. It does seem like guys who have gotten through to the PGA TOUR have been able to hold their own up here.

JACKSON KOIVUN: Um-hmm, for sure. I think the top guys in college definitely have a great chance of coming out here and competing and winning early. I'm sure there's an argument to be made for both sides.

Q. Jackson, you were named SEC Athlete of the Year, first time a golfer's ever won that and first time anybody from Auburn since Bo Jackson. Just wondering your thoughts on getting that aware and how honored you feel to get that?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Yeah, that was definitely shocking. I had been aware of that award since I got into college but to be named it for the first time as a golfer is kind of crazy to think about given how many great golfers came out of the SEC. I'm sure there's a couple out there that are just as deserving as I am. It's definitely a huge honor to receive that award. It's pretty cool.



Q. Has your preparation changed as of late, whether it be physical, mental, technical or even for the press?

JACKSON KOIVUN: Not really. I just kind of, I've got a game plan that I go into every day, just trying to execute that and give myself the best chance come Thursday to go out there and perform to the best of my abilities.

MODERATOR: Thanks, Jackson. We appreciate your time. Good luck this week.

JACKSON KOIVUN: Appreciate it.

