

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
September 30, 2026

JUSTIN LEONARD



Q. Justin, welcome back. Last time you were here it was for media day, so how was the course looking from then to now?

JUSTIN LEONARD: It was pretty soft. What was I here, about three weeks ago? It was pretty soft, and it's certainly firmed up a little bit, although there was a decent bit of rain this past weekend.

But the fairways have gotten faster, if you will. They keep 'em pretty tight here and I noticed yesterday playing a practice round, a couple balls that I hit three weeks ago where the ball was staying in the fairway, yesterday it was running off into the rough.

So I think that's going to be one of the big challenges this week. There's about four or five holes where you've got to really hug one side of the fairway, otherwise it's going to bound down and get in the rough on the other side.

But golf course is in great shape. Shaping up to be a good weekend.

Q. Do you see a number this week compared to other courses on the Champions Tour that you're thinking about?

JUSTIN LEONARD: I used to try and do that and I was never even close. So no, I don't try and predict a number, I'm just going out and trying to play as best I can and see where they add up. Yeah, I don't have any kind of target score or anything like that.

Q. What still gets your competitive juices flowing out here on the Champions Tour?

JUSTIN LEONARD: Just trying to get a little better and trying to make the most of my game. There's so many things that you learn through golf that you apply to life. So it's not for me just about golf but being a better husband, a better father, strong in my faith, all those things that I think I apply and try and learn through the game of golf but they apply in other areas as well.

I'm a big process guy, and then let the results fall where they may. So even this year, from a results standpoint hasn't been great, I've actually learned a lot and I like the direction things are going.

Q. And that leads me into asking you what is one part of your game today that is better than the PGA Tour?



JUSTIN LEONARD: Well, it definitely would be mentally, just I think not being so result, goal oriented but being more into the process. I think while I still slip into that from time to time, I think on average I'm much better at that than I was on the regular tour.

I think also having -- stepping away from the game, we have four kids, now it's not just about like, oh, when I'm home, we'll take them to the park. Now it's like we're going to parents weekends at colleges or watching one of my sons play a college golf tournament. Like being involved is something that I've really enjoyed and like just kind of finding the balance. I feel like life, a lot of times you're just having to rebalance and those kind of things. It's been fun figuring that out, too.

Q. Specifically with your son going to Villanova, so many great golf courses in the area, do you actually try to stop and play one while you're there, like a Merion or --

JUSTIN LEONARD: Right. I haven't so far. He's just a sophomore and usually -- actually, I haven't gotten to see him a whole lot on campus. Usually if I'm traveling to see him it's because he's playing somewhere. I've got to spend a little bit of time around campus but not enough to like, hey, let's go play golf kind of thing. Hopefully we'll get that in here at some point.

Q. What would you tell the fans this weekend that want to come out why they should come out and see you guys on the Champions Tour?

JUSTIN LEONARD: Because even though we're a little older than we were 30 years ago, we still play this game pretty well. I think our game is more relatable. We're not hitting 340- and 350-yard drives. We occasionally lay up on a par 5. I think our game is more relatable than what the guys -- what you see now on the regular tour. You know, come check us out and see how we're doing.

Q. One more. Does it amaze you how low these guys go out here because these guys can go pretty low out here? Blows me away.

JUSTIN LEONARD: It doesn't amaze me because I see the amount of work the guys put in, but it is impressive. I mean, there's times when if I'm playing a new event or something like that and I play my first round, I'm like yeah, I'm pretty pleased with that, you look up and some guy's 7 or 8 under. Yeah, that happens. So it doesn't surprise me very often just because I see the amount of work that guys put in.

