

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
October 1, 2026

DICKY PRIDE



Q. First impressions, welcome to Lehigh Valley Classic. What do you think of the course and just kind of being in the area?

DICKY PRIDE: Love the area. The area's welcomed us just with open arms and it's so much fun to be around here.

Other than I'm a Braves fan and the Braves and Phillies are playing right now, so they're not being real nice to me about that, but for good reason.

The golf course itself, had a lot of rain over the weekend with that nor'easter. It's really dried out nicely. It's getting firmer, faster. I hope that continues because I think it's a much better course when it plays firm and fast.

Q. Heading into this week, what do you feel about the state of your game? You know, had that big win earlier this year, not the best results over the past couple months.

DICKY PRIDE: I appreciate you pointing that out. I noticed.

Q. How do you feel about your confidence heading into this week?

DICKY PRIDE: Well, I'm a lot better than I was the last two weeks at Sioux Falls and Pebble Beach. I've gotten into some bad habits, and I went last Friday to TPC Sawgrass and saw my teacher, Todd Anderson. We decided it was OK, let's get back to the very basics and let's get our grip -- my grip was off, my setup was off.

So I feel a lot better about it. Looking forward to playing here. It's a golf course you have to play -- the second shot becomes very important, you need to hit the fairways because you've got to place it on the greens. I've been working on that pretty hard.

Q. How do you attack a course that is a debut on the tour? How do you go about your business?

DICKY PRIDE: Well, I've been fortunate enough, being a brand ambassador for Jefferson Health, that I've been up here four or five times. I played it a couple times, I got to play with the president of the club, a couple of guys that showed me a couple of (inaudible).

Take a lot of notes. You get your yardage book, you take notes, you look at the holes from the tee and then you look at it from the green. I always like looking backwards on the holes because they'll kind of tell you where to go.



So pay attention -- you don't just go out and play a practice round with your buddies kind of messing around. You pay attention to where you need to play that hole and try to go execute that. It's the way it is.

Q. I wanted to ask you, with the pro-am teeing off here in a little bit, what makes a good partner in a group in a pro-am? Who do you like playing with? What type guy do you like playing with?

DICKY PRIDE: Well, the first thing, I've never played in a pro-am with someone that didn't want to have a good time. Every now and again you'll get a guy that's so concerned about -- we've got a bet with 16B and we've got to beat them, I need eight birdies. I'm like bro, I've got a tournament starting tomorrow, it's my livelihood, let's pump the brakes a little bit.

With pro-ams, I think everyone wants to have a good time. You've got to be able to laugh because we're not all going to hit good shots. You're not, I'm not, so let's relax. That's why we have a team.

And take it for what it is. This is a great experience. I think it's the biggest advantage golf has because it doesn't matter how good or bad you are, you can play with a pro. We try do that in tennis or baseball -- I've gone and watched batting practice for Major League Baseball and I'm not getting in that box for a good reason, right?

So it's a lot of fun. I've met so many great, lifetime friends from meeting in a pro-am. Yeah, I just love it.

Q. You won in dramatic fashion against Padraig this year.

DICKY PRIDE: Yes.

Q. And being a brand ambassador of Jefferson, what would it mean for you to win here?

DICKY PRIDE: Wow, wouldn't that be fine? I would love to act like I haven't thought about that because I have and how cool that would be. I would rather it be me or Justin Leonard because he's a brand ambassador as well. Hopefully we can put ourselves in position to have a chance.

Trying to win a golf tournament is difficult. You have a lot of outside distractions that have nothing to do with golf about what it can do, and if I have a chance to win this golf tournament, that would be an outside distraction I'm going to have to deal with because that would be just, that would be exceptional.

Q. So you've also played here a number of times now, including media day.



DICKY PRIDE: Yes.

Q. What number do you think it's going to take this week out there?

DICKY PRIDE: I have no idea. I mean, honestly, I don't look -- it sounds like a bad answer, like I'm making this up. I honestly try not to think that way because golf is about maximizing what you have.

Like when I played high school basketball, if I couldn't hit a shot, I could go play defense and rebound. You can't do that, you can't stop.

Like the playoff with Padraig Harrington, I couldn't do anything to stop him. He birdied the last hole to get in a playoff. If it was basketball, I would have tried to (inaudible), but you can't do that in golf.

So I really don't think that way. I think someone that's controlling their iron game and gets hot with the putter is going to have a real good chance of shooting a low score.

Q. Dicky, with the number of times you played here as a brand ambassador and this being a first-time stop, do you feel like you've got a leg up on the field for the amount of times you've played?

DICKY PRIDE: It's definitely helped, there's no question it's helped being here. I think anytime you can see the golf course -- I've played the course probably -- it was playing faster than anyone in the field (inaudible), seems like it's getting faster and faster.

Q. Does the classical architecture golf course fit you better than others?

DICKY PRIDE: I have no clue. I look at -- I look at 18 holes as this is my game plan for every pin position and every (inaudible) and that's how I go about my business. I don't think about, oh, this course fits me because of this. I'm thinking about how am I going -- my whole game plan is I want a birdie opportunity on every hole and what do I have to do to get that birdie opportunity. Sometimes that birdie opportunity's two feet with a wedge in my hand is what I'm looking for, and sometimes it's like No. 3 and I just want to putt and not have to chip on that green because it's just -- but it's also a 220-yard par-3. So that's kind of how I go about it.

I love the design of the course. You're going to have to be really patient and -- you have to be patient and you're going to have to accept that not everything's going to go perfect. The problem with that for me is we're on the Champions Tour and everyone knows how to do that because most of them have won out here already. So yeah, I think we'll all kind of go about our business that way.

Q. What do you recall about the reception from the golf fans in Lehigh Valley when



you played the Senior Open at Saucon Valley?

DICKY PRIDE: Well, the first round I played in the wave that had all the rain the first day, so the second day was great other than I was -- I did not play well. I'm pretty sure I was trying to come up with an excuse about not playing well because of the tee times I got, but Padraig Harrington was in the group in front of me and won the thing, so it blew that straight to heck.

No, it's a great reception. The nice part about being up here is they know good golf, they know bad golf and they don't applaud if you get lucky. It's kind of like Philly fans. If you do things the right way, they'll applaud you. If you do things the wrong way, they'll let you know. I'm good with that.

Q. Like most golf courses, players know there's a stretch of holes out there they can get after. Is there a stretch of holes here you can get after?

DICKY PRIDE: Again, I don't think that way. I'm sorry, I apologize. I know that this is a terrible media answer and I'm awful, but I just don't think that way. I really just think about each individual hole and how I want to give myself an opportunity to score on each hole.

I've always been like the John Wooden thing where if you get too high or too low, set expectations, when you have that low and that valley because you were way up here, that's when you lose golf tournaments, and for me when I was in high school, when you lose basketball games. That's kind of like the thing I brought from basketball to golf with me. Scott Brenizer, my coach in high school, taught me that and I kind of applied it to golf, and then I learned a lot more about it and figured out that's a really good way to go about it. I want to be as level as possible and I just want to give myself opportunities.

Q. So it's one hole at a time?

DICKY PRIDE: Yeah, it's more one shot, and it's not even the shot. If it comes off, it's am I executing the way I'm trying to, am I hitting -- I made a game plan and am I executing that game plan. If you're not executing a game plan, why didn't you, did you get scared, did you get careful, did you do something. You know, do you worry about -- did you get distracted.

So it's more about am I executing. It sounds boring and honestly it is. It is really -- it's really funny, like people when I won DICK'S, they all called me, all my buddies called me, you were the most loud, obnoxious talker I ever met in my life. You and Padraig barely talked and y'all are good friends. I'm like, yeah, but that's because I'm trying to stay level.

And it's hard, it's something I battle all the time when I get an opportunity to have a chance to win. Controlling my emotions is -- it's a battle for everybody, but for someone that's as loud and obnoxious as me, it's really hard.

Q. You kind of alluded to it before about iron play. With the golf course being a little bit softer, what are the three keys between driving, irons and putting, which one's



going to probably be the most important for scoring?

DICKY PRIDE: Well, putter can make up for just about anything. If you -- and the greens are so good, if you get hot with your putter, you're going to have a lot of the fun this week. But if you get hot with your putter putting for pars, it's not going to do (inaudible).

So I think the iron play's going to be really important. And it's not just hitting greens, it's hitting greens in the right spots and giving yourself an opportunity. You get a downhill 20-footer that you can't -- you've got to play a bunch of break and trickle it down there because if you get aggressive, you're going to have six feet coming back, yeah. So I think iron play's going to set up someone getting hot with the putter.

Q. As a die-hard Alabama fan, what did you think about the Jackson Koivun-Justin Thomas pairing at the Presidents Cup?

DICKY PRIDE: Yeah, I'm not surprised. I thought they did great. I don't really -- sad to say how little of golf I follow because it's my job. So I get away from the golf course, I'm like I don't want to watch golf.

But I actually did watch some of the Presidents Cup. I was really happy for Brandt and all the team because he took a lot of heat coming in because of who he picked and they proved him right, they played great.

Yeah, I know Justin. I don't know Koivun, I've never met him. I think I've seen him hit two shots and they were on 18 at the Presidents Cup and those were pretty impressive. It's kind of like, can I see him putt, too, because so far this looks all right.

But yeah, that's like the Alabama-Auburn thing is a lot of fun. You can go back in press conferences and see Charles Barkley giving Justin a hard time, which he gives everyone a hard time but particularly Alabama people. He's the same way with me and that's the way the rivalry is a lot of fun. We're always going to root for our team and we've always got the needle at the other guy and that's a lot of fun.

The other funny part is Auburn's AD John Cohen and I went to high school together, so I can't really root against him unless they're playing Alabama.

