ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
November 1, 2026

DARREN FICHARDT (-22)

Q. Now joined by Darren Fichardt, our 2026 Simmons Bank Championship, your first win on PGA Tour Champions. Just how special is this for you?

DARREN FICHARDT: Oh, man, it's amazing. It hasn't quite hit me, I can't believe it. Such an emotional day to go out there and just thinking about the Playoffs, and after nine holes thinking wait a sec, maybe I have a chance to win this golf tournament. Like I'm playing well enough, I'm putting well enough. So to finish birdie-eagle with Zach Johnson is crazy, man, it's crazy.

Q. Talk about that back-and-forth battle you had with Zach Johnson all day and leading up to the shot on 17.

DARREN FICHARDT: Yeah, it was really -- I mean, yes, he's a tough competitor. Zach, it was unbelievable to see a guy like that play at that caliber. I mean, I had my A stuff today and to go up against him, and us both shooting 8 under to win my first event was truly special. It was really, really special.

Q. Can you kind of guess the yardage you had on 17, the club you hit, the length of the putt, and then on 18 the same thing?

DARREN FICHARDT: On 17 I was 218 and I hit a flighted draw 3-iron, just run it up there. And then I probably had about a 15-footer, it was a ball left, made that.

Then on the last hole I had 255 to the pin. I didn't really want to go at it because when I hit it really hard it comes out a bit of a fade, so I thought, well, on Friday I landed up just hitting a 5-wood up the right and I sort of ran down to the exact spot where the flag was. I thought just hit a controlled 3-wood out to the right edge of the bunker on the right and then ran it up to where it was, and then that putt was like a cup outside right.

Q. You looked so comfortable out there, especially with your wife. You guys just looked very comfortable.

DARREN FICHARDT: Well, I've won a lot of times around the world and I try to focus a lot on that and try and take the whole thought process that this is a PGA Tour Champions event, this is my first event. So I kept saying to myself I've done this numerous times, just another tournament, just another player to beat.

Obviously when Zach was playing like he was playing, I was like, all right, we're not in any other tournament, we're on the PGA Tour Champions, because he's playing so well.

Yeah, I did feel quite calm today. David Frost sent me a message last night and he said nothing to lose, you know? So I was like, you know what, I've got nothing to lose. I'm the new guy on Tour. Zach's won like everything this year and he's a great player. To lose to Zach Johnson's not a (inaudible) but to beat him is amazing. Like David said, I had nothing to lose so I just went out there and gave my everything, and to stand there a winner, I was truly honored.

Q. Have you had a round like that where it was you and another guy were going birdie, eagle, birdie, eagle, birdie, eagle? I mean, it was very impressive to watch.

DARREN FICHARDT: I don't think I have. I've gone head to head with a few guys before, but to shoot 8 under in your last round when we -- I mean, I think I was 22, 21, I think the next best was 14, so we were running in our own tournament there. I don't think I've ever done that before, no.

Q. I know you said you shot a 61 in Brazil before, but that's what you did on Saturday, today it was 64.

DARREN FICHARDT: Yeah, Brazil I shot 61 but I got to like seven shots in the lead. So yeah, I'm sitting 19 under in two rounds winning by one. It's really, it was crazy out there. Unbelievable I won this golf tournament, it's amazing.

Q. I know you touched on it a little bit, but when Zach hits that putt on 18, kind of puts the pressure on you, what was going through your mind and how did you keep the nerves under control for that?

DARREN FICHARDT: Well, I expected Zach to actually make eagle, make that putt because just the player he is, he's just a spectacular player and he's done such amazing things his career. Then when he hit a (indiscernible), I was like wait a second, jeez, I might have a two-putt for a win. But I thought, you know what, I wanted to make that putt to win, and then he makes it. I'm like jeez, OK. So to get over there and make that putt was just crazy. It was amazing.

Q. It seemed like you had a lot of relief after it went down, the emotions when you finally saw it at the bottom of the cup.

DARREN FICHARDT: Yeah, I don't think, between yesterday and today I don't think I had one bad putt. I putted so great. I just hope -- I wish I could play on greens like this every week, the greens were absolutely amazing. I knew if I just hit that in the right direction (inaudible).

Q. You mentioned waking up, nothing to lose. Was there a point today where things sort of switched for you like hey I'm playing this, we'll see what happens, to we can really win this?

DARREN FICHARDT: Well, again, my wife and I said last night, the TV was on but no one was speaking, we were very quiet. We didn't talk about how we were feeling. And obviously I was feeling a bit nervous because I got myself in position to make the Playoffs, got myself in position to win.

But then again I also got myself in position that it could also go the other way. It could be a really upsetting day if I finished fourth and I missed the Playoffs and I don't get top 36. My main focus was just to go out and not make bogeys and just give myself a chance for birdies.

After nine I was 2 under and I looked and I was 16, I think the next best was 11 or 12. I'm like, all right, well, I'm four shots away. And I birdied 10 and then I was five shots away. So then I was like, all right, now I'm comfortable. Now let's try and make a few birdies, let's see where it can take us. We're going to have to play really well to beat Zach because he played unbelievably well, and yeah, it took a birdie and eagle to beat him by one, which is crazy.

Q. Who had the champagne at the end?

DARREN FICHARDT: Rory Sabbatini. So Rory won last week for his first win and yeah, I won this week. Yeah, we're both maiden winners.