

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**June 21, 2017**



**Miguel Angel Jimenez**

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**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Good morning, everyone. Welcome, Miguel.

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Hello, good morning.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Thanks for coming in this morning. First, why don't you give us your impressions of the golf course and Madison in general.

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Well, I played yesterday 18 holes. I need to try some testing the golf course. It looked very good conditions, great shape. It's a good compromise with the length of the golf course, the wideness of the fairways and the speed of the greens. I think it's in superb conditions and we're going to have fun this week.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Earlier this season you talked about playing more on PGA TOUR Champions and you've done really well, you've had six top-10s. Do you think there's a relationship with playing more and playing better?

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Well, I don't know if we have a relation on that, no, but I've been playing very well all the tournaments I've been playing here on the Champions. I commit more to play here. As I said before, I commit more on the Champions Tour instead to on my regular tour in Europe where I'm going to play only five, six tournaments and I'm going to play around 20 tournaments this year here on the Champions. I'm slowly coming to have a full schedule here in the near future.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Very good. We'll open it up to questions.

**Q. On the regular tour there's obviously the European versus American angle to a lot of things. Is there any vibe like that on the Champions Tour, the guys who might have battled in the Ryder Cups against some of these American PGA TOUR Champions players or doing that kind of go away at this age?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Well, there's not any controversy. The Ryder Cup is the event of golf, no, the emotions and things. But when we are here on the Champions, we know who is who and we know how good you've been and how good you are. We're still good and we're still having fun playing golf and still having fun competing, but with nothing anger or anything, we just play the game of golf.

**Q. You mentioned having fun playing golf. How much fun do you have playing golf week to week?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Golf is probably the only thing I love to do in my life, and I make my living playing golf also. I think that is amazing. So lucky to make your life with something you love. Golf to me is joy and it matters. Even when I'm after competing for several weeks, I get home and my sons, they both play golf. I want to play with them. Golf is amazing. It's a very, very nice life and I always enjoy what I'm doing. If not, we would not be here talking now.

**Q. Miguel, this area's known for its beer, but you're more of a wine guy. What do you think of the selection here and have you had a chance to sample any of the wine?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** No, I didn't try any wine, local wine. I don't know how they are here. I know you have some good wines in the Napa Valley that are nice. But I think I'm more into the Tempranillo grape what we produce in Spain. It's taste.

**Q. When Bernhard Langer isn't in a field, is it like --**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** He's not here?

**Q. He's not here.**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Why not?

**Q. I guess he's got a conflict, family conflict. Opens some doors, doesn't it?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Well, I didn't play the last tournament in Des Moines, for example. I needed to have a rest after I played a few tournaments here and needed to have some time off and I spent three weeks in Europe before coming here. He needs to spend also some time. Sometimes you cannot play all of them. But we're going to miss him, of course. We want to have the biggest and the strongest field in the tournament. It's much more better everyone. It's much better for the tournament, for the sponsor and also for the players because it's going to be always have better test, the better field.

**Q. Is it like when Tiger would skip an event? You knew when he was in, when he wasn't in. Has Bernhard become kind of that guy out here?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** I don't know if I'd compare -- Tiger is different because Tiger is Tiger. But it's always the better field you have in the tournament, the better for everyone; for the media, for the sponsors, for the players, for the tournament itself. You don't need to be afraid of that. It's nice, much better always.

**Q. It seems like fans gravitate -- fans follow players with personality in this game. Do you feed off of that? Do you understand that they appreciate you for what they've seen over the years?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Yeah, yeah, I feel that also. Not the amount of Tiger

obviously, but yeah, I feel that. I feel that people love me and I don't know why. Probably because I'm the way I am. Everybody's the way they are. And then it's nice, it's nice. I always enjoy myself. I never hide anything or what I like in my life and probably people like that.

**Q. What's your history with Steve Stricker, either competing against him -- Steve Stricker, the tournament host. What's your history competing against him, what you know of him?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** I think he's a great player. He's still playing very well on the regular tour as you see. It's nice for him to be involved in the tournament. It's great. He's a great player, great person, character, everything. It's nice. He made a tournament the first time and he told me, hey, are you going to come here? Last year I was playing half of my schedule was here on the Champions, half of my schedule was on the European Tour. I couldn't play here, but this year I'm going to play more Champions and this year I'm going to play this tournament, promise.

**Q. You were helping to build a short course facility in Spain, is that correct? The facility you're helping to build in Spain, or design, can you talk about how that fits into your schedule, how you're able to work on that and be on tour?**

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** Well, I've got the facilities there in Malaga. My family's working there, my people are taking care of the thing because I cannot be all over the place. And then I've got golf academy there with nine hole par 3s and we're trying to get the golf close to the people. Golf is not the cheapest hobby, but it's not that more expensive than any other hobby. And then we're trying to get a golf course to the people and more modest price. Also, we have like 100 kids there in the academy with different ages, different levels and that's the base. That's my thing, you know. It's to promote the golf to the kids to make them better golfers, better persons. Sport and life is very, very important for the future.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Thank you, Miguel.

**MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ:** You're welcome.