

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
November 8, 2017



MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ

LAURA VESCOVI: I would like to welcome Miguel Angel Jimenez to the interview room this week at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. It was an exciting week last week. You had an exciting performance, close finish in second there. So coming in to this week, how are you feeling? Talk about your game and your preparation.

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Well, I feel very well. I've been hitting the ball very nice. As you said, a couple weeks ago I played so good. Not really good enough on the greens, the hole is moving too much. Well, that's what makes the difference then, no? But played very well and was a beautiful match there Langer and me had on the last round. Nothing to prove. He's a great player all year and I've been playing very well, too, and then he holed some more putts than me and he got the victory. I've been preparing for playing well, hitting good and I looking forward to this tournament and hope I can win the weekend and get the Schwab Cup.

LAURA VESCOVI: Well, this is a new course. Last year was at Desert Mountain. This course is very different, a little more traditional, very flat. Do you like that kind of course, are you looking forward to that?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: It's very nice, a very nice golf course. I played yesterday and it's a golf course that is demanding of good tee shots or it's going to be very difficult to control the balls on those greens. Also the grain on the greens is always going to give you a lot of speed when you're putting sidehill, downhill lie. It's good, very interesting golf course, yeah.

Q. Miguel, you and Bernhard go back many, many years back to the European Tour. Is he the same now as he was back when the two of you were first playing on the European Tour as far as kind of a bulldog competitor so to speak?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: He's always very competitive. He's one of those players that never gives up or anything. He's very methodic. You can see it on the golf course, he's not missing shots on the golf course and never gives up anything. He's very strong in the mind and he's been that all his life. He still looks like he's 30. He's a very good, good player.

Q. The putt he made, looked like a pretty difficult down the slope left to right. Were you expecting him to make that?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Sorry, what?

Q. The putt in the playoff --

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Yeah.

Q. -- that Bernhard made, it looked like a very difficult putt.

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: He had the same putt on the first hole and, then on the first hole of the playoff and he was exactly almost in the same position so he knows the line already. Well, it's quite long with the slope and never expected he was going to make it, but that's the game, you know? That's the game and he won, he deserves.

Q. Were you surprised?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Not surprised, not surprised because he's very good on the greens, yeah.

Q. What would it mean to you to win this week in the season-ending prize?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: It would be amazing, no? To me it would be very nice to win and win the Schwab Cup. I didn't understand until they explained to me that you need to be in the top-5 to win. Now even he can win (inaudible) anyway, but to win the Schwab Cup you need to be in the top-5 and then you win all of those. It's good. It gives you more intensity, no? Of course, for intense for the weekend.

Q. I think it's lost on maybe a lot of fans who watch the competitiveness on the Tour, they think it's more maybe a fun thing for the guys in order to play on, but people are very competitive out there, Bernhard, you, McCarron, fiery guys. Can you kind of explain the competitive nature of the guys who compete on this tour?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: The Tour, as you say, you say everything already, it is very, very competitive. Guys are coming from the main tours out here and it's getting very, very strong, yeah. Obviously it's not the same like you are on the regular tour because on the regular tour you have a full field with 150 players, four days of rounds, cuts. Out here it's a little bit more relaxing that matters, no, but at the same time it's very, very competitive. To win is always tough because they are playing well, they're playing very good and I think it's a great tour here.

Q. What are your thoughts about the state of golf in Spain right now? You have young guys like Jon Rahm coming up. When you started it was you, Seve before you. How do you feel about the younger golfers coming up now?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: We have a good -- Jon Rahm is the latest one who's coming up there who's playing very well, won several times already in his short career. I think it's very healthy. I think they're very good players. Even the youngest one, Rafa Cabrera-Bello, is playing very well, too. I think it's healthy, yeah.

Q. Is that one of the reasons you started your academy there?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: No. I got academy now, I always promoting junior tournaments and things. But the thing to me to get the academy is to get golf close to the people. We have an academy with a nine-hole par-3, chipping area. A lot of people coming. I've got 100 kids around, 100 kids at my academy there. It's good, need to promote golf somehow. Also have seven years now I make a junior circuit around Spain. We have 17 (inaudible) there and I have a tournament for different categories, for boys and for girls and they're in the final that's going to be in December. It's a two-day tournament where they're going to be with all of them and they qualify, only the winners of the categories. I'll have around 100 kids for all of them playing there in that.

Q. Where is that going to be?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: My academy's in Torremolinos, Malaga. Five minutes from the airport. Good, very well located.

LAURA VESCOVI: No further questions? Thank you for being here, good luck.

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Thank you.