

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**August 2, 2018**

**JON RAHM ( -6)**



**JON RAHM:** I haven't played this organized or this confident and solid in a while. To only miss four fairways out here, to hit it as long as I did, and every time I missed the fairway it was barely on the edge. To only miss three greens, it was a very organized day. Had a lot of fun and I hope -- I know it won't be, but I hope the next three are as stress-free as I did today.

**Q. You told us you love this golf course. How much do you love playing well on this golf course and being in the mix in one of these world events?**

**JON RAHM:** You know, it is amazing. When you come to a golf course like this where you need to hit quality golf shots to shoot low, obviously on a day with no wind it makes it a lot easier, we need to play really solid out here. Fairways aren't easy to hit. Greens, you can hit the greens but you need to hit the correct side of the green. In my mind, it almost plays similar to Augusta. It's somewhat of a similar feeling and that's what I enjoy. You've got to move it left to right and right to left off the tee. You've got to move it left to right and right to left on the second shots. All those putts, you know, they're not going to have a straight putt, it's always curved, you know, uphill, downhill, sideways. It's just a lot of fun. I love playing good and playing good on a tournament course like this, it's the reason why we play. It's so much fun to get in a tournament like this.

**Q. For you after what happened Friday at The Open, just what have you done to maybe try to get your game fine tuned for this week and have the start that you had today?**

**JON RAHM:** Well, they haven't told you what happened at The Open? The only reason why -- my game was fine. The only reason why I played bad -- we haven't made this public. We made this public on my website. Four of my friends from Thursday were driving -- actually, that day they were driving up -- no, sorry.

In the morning they were driving up to watch me play and they got in a car accident. One of them was seriously injured and some were going to surgery that morning. So, you know, my mind was not where it was supposed to be.

At the same time, my grandpa wasn't feeling great. He was actually undergoing surgery for something else the same day while I was playing. My mind wasn't where it was supposed to be. Everybody on my team was aware of that and none of us were surprised that that would happen.

**Q. How long did it take to turn the page?**

**JON RAHM:** How long?

**Q. Yeah.**

**JON RAHM:** I stayed all Saturday to help out the families and everybody who was there because there weren't many English speakers. And I was able to see my friend after he came out of surgery. He was stable, he was just going to have to stay there for a couple days. And actually yesterday he got sent back home to Spain, so that helped out as well.

**Q. On 15 you chipped in from off the rough on the par 3. What was the thought process and that thought, how did it work out to execution?**

**JON RAHM:** Well, I think people expect a more special answer than what I'm going to give, to be honest. But it wasn't the best of lies, it wasn't the worst. It breaks a little left. Let's just make sure we get it up to the pin and that's about it. When it's out of the rough and the greens are fast and soft, it's hard to get the distance. So I was like, make sure it gets there and if it hits the line, it might go in. If not, it's going to be four to five feet, a radius of five feet.

**Q. Is the state of Ohio for you -- you won the Nicklaus Award a couple of years ago and now you're here playing. What have you learned from that time since then that you've really been able to utilize to your wins and beyond?**

**JON RAHM:** Well, I've played twice in the state of Ohio. I missed the cut and then last year I finished third, so that's the best of me so far.

**Q. In general.**

**JON RAHM:** In general, I mean, when you're able to get an award with the name of somebody like Jack Nicklaus, the names Ben Hogan, be part of the legacy of what it means to golf, it's absolutely incredible. I mean, when you get to stand with Jack Nicklaus on the stage and him giving you the trophy, it's a really special moment. So you learn to cherish those, try to pick his brain a little bit, but obviously he played golf very differently to what I did and golf has changed (inaudible). So all we can do is remember and be thankful for what we have because compared to what they had at that time and what they were playing for, it's very different for what we have. So every day is gratitude and thankful to be where I am.