

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 15, 2018

PETER UIHLEIN



JACK RYAN: We'll go ahead and get started here with Peter Uihlein at the 2018 Wyndham Championship. Peter, as a junior golfer, won the Wyndham Invitational presented by BBT. So obviously you've had some success at this course, obviously not on the PGA TOUR. How does it feel to making your first start at the Wyndham Championship on the PGA TOUR?

PETER UIHLEIN: Yeah, it's nice to be back. It's been about 10 years since I've been at Greensboro. I'm staying at the Grandover and I played an IJGT there when I was probably like 14 or 15. That was kind of cool. We went out and walked it a little bit last night and I kind of remembered some of the holes, which is nice. So it's nice to be back in the area. I've always liked North Carolina, I've always liked Greensboro, so yeah, it's exciting to be back.

JACK RYAN: With this being the last event before the FedExCup Playoffs, you currently sit No. 76 in the FedExCup standings. How big of a week is this for you to try to improve your standing as we approach the Playoffs?

PETER UIHLEIN: Yeah, it is. Yeah, you kind of, at least you almost feel like you want to be at least in that third one to give yourself a chance for at least the TOUR Championship. You know, unfortunately, I haven't played -- other than The Open, the U.S. Open -- yeah, Open, U.S. Open and the PGA, I haven't played a PGA TOUR event since Memphis. So I've taken a little bit of time off. I went over and played a few overseas. I've kind of gone backwards quite a bit on the FedEx because you feel like if you miss a week out here, there's so many points and you can kind of fluctuate. But with that said, if you play well, you jump up quite a bit. It's nice to kind of at least finish off the season playing a lot more golf instead of kind of taking a little bit of a break, which I did earlier. Yeah, I'm looking forward to it.

JACK RYAN: And you've had three top-5 finishes this season. Do you feel like this is a week where you could maybe get over the hump and put yourself in contention and maybe get a victory on Sunday?

PETER UIHLEIN: Yeah, yeah. It's one of those golf courses where if you're on with your irons, I think that's kind of what it's all about. Old-school Donald Ross where it's very positional, you're not going to overpower it. You've got to be pretty sharp with your short irons especially, and then make some putts. The greens, from what I've seen, are very, very good. Yeah, you feel like you'll be able to kind of hole it if you're feeling good with it. Yeah, it's definitely a golf course -- I remember watching it on TV last year with Stenson and Ollie. I was enamored with Ollie's stinger, that was impressive. And then Stenson's probably the best iron player in the world, so you can see why he does well around here.

Q. Peter, without having to get too philosophical, just a couple comments on how you feel you've grown as a player since winning here last. You've obviously played all over the world, gained a lot of experience. Just a few comments on how you feel you've developed as a person and a player and so forth.

PETER UIHLEIN: It's been 10 years ago, yeah. Grown a lot bigger, I guess. I was smaller back then. Yeah, I think college was amazing for me, kind of -- obviously to live on your own and grow up and learn to do things like laundry and things like that, college was amazing.

Then five years in Europe was another great experience, definitely helped me mature and grow up. I had always been kind of in a little bit of a bubble, I guess, in high school and college at Oklahoma and Florida, but going off and seeing the world right away has been pretty amazing for me as a person and trying to grow up and kind of appreciate things. When you come back home and everything is -- you know, America's pretty awesome. So it's nice to come back to the States.

Q. Peter, the Playoffs begin next week and with that stretch of potentially four, five weeks in a row, how do you prepare yourself mentally and physically for that stretch? I've got a follow up as well.

PETER UIHLEIN: Yeah, I think you just look at it that regardless of how far you go, the further you go, then you're making -- you're obviously making a lot more money and you have one less week of a break. It's not really a big deal. I think you have about three or four weeks off depending on how far you go, or two, three weeks, whatever it is. Yeah, it's nice to kind of get into a rhythm of playing and playing week to week instead of feeling like I was just kind of a couple weeks off and then just playing and a couple weeks off, so it's nice.

Q. Do you think your game has a little bit more of an advantage when you're in America as opposed to playing overseas when trips are much longer between events?

PETER UIHLEIN: I think it's just a comfort thing. I think if you go to certain places where guys live there or play there a lot or practice there or whatever, I think it makes a big difference. But obviously I've never played -- I played nine holes yesterday at Sedgefield, but it's bermudagrass, it's stuff I'm comfortable with. It's old-school Donald Ross. I grew up on one in Massachusetts and I was a member at one down in Bradenton as well in high school. So I like Donald Ross courses, so at least that comfort plays into it a little bit. So yeah, it's nice. There's a funny -- fun fact, my dad's actually played here before, like back in 1966 they had a junior tournament. He said it was the first time out of Massachusetts. My dad's been around this golf course more times than I have.

Q. Just wanted to ask you since you did win here on the AJGA, what did the AJGA experience do for you and how important was that to play junior golf like that?

PETER UIHLEIN: Yeah, I'm still playing against guys that I played with in junior golf, Kevin Tway, Patrick Cantlay, Spieth, JT. I think they're a little bit behind me, but still. Patrick Reed. I'm still playing against guys that played the AJGA and they're all out here on Tour now. English and Henley, those guys, yeah.

Yeah, it's pretty awesome that you kind of look back and see guys that you played against growing up and now everybody's out on Tour and traveling week to week together. It's pretty awesome. I love what Mark Brazil does with this event, gives it to the Player of the Year, right? Still does that, right? So Player of the Year AJGA gets in, that's pretty awesome. And he does a good job of giving invites to young guys as well and giving them their chance. So yeah, I've always watched this event from afar and really admired what they do and I'm thrilled to be here.

Q. When you won at Forest Oaks, was it kind of a cool thing at that point to be playing on a Tour site at the time and what was that like?

PETER UIHLEIN: Yeah, it was good. That was the first time I had won, I guess, a major for the AJGA. I had been close a few times. I think I lost the year -- I was runner-up the year before at Forest Oaks as well, so it was nice to kind of get that win. Yeah, I played a lot definitely in junior golf and played all over. Yeah, it's obviously nice, I guess, to get a monkey off your back, get a win. Yeah, that's all I can remember. But it's nice to be back playing in the event that sponsored the event 10 years ago or whatever, so it's really cool.

JACK RYAN: All right. Thank you for your time, Peter. Best of luck this week.