



DUSTIN JOHNSON

DOUG MILNE: We'll go ahead and get started, like to welcome Dustin Johnson to the virtual press conference here at the 3M Open.

Dustin, thanks for joining us for a few minutes. Coming into the week ranked fourth in the world, 25th in the FedExCup, just a few comments about being here at TPC Twin Cities this week.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, it's my first time here. Obviously it's, what, the second year of the tournament. But I got -- I played nine holes on Sunday and nine holes yesterday. The golf course is really nice. First time seeing it. It's in good shape. I'm excited to be here. I think 3M's putting on a great tournament and they take good care of us. So yeah, I'm excited for the week.

DOUG MILNE: You're coming in just two starts after having collected your 21st Tour title at the Travelers Championship with the incredible performance there. Just some thoughts on how your game's -- where it is right now according to where you kind of want it to be.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, obviously last week was a bit of a struggle for a lot of different reasons, but yeah, I feel like I've had some good practice, you know, Sunday and Monday. So I feel like the game's in good form. I actually felt like the game was in good form going into the Memorial last week, just -- yeah, I just struggled. It's one of those weeks.

Yeah, I mean, I've still got a lot of confidence in what I'm doing. I feel like the game's there, so I'm definitely excited and looking forward to this week. Obviously need to have a good week because I'd like to, you know, climb up in the FedExCup points list, for sure. I'm looking for a good tournament. I like the golf course, I think it sets up well for me, a lot better than last week's golf course. So I'm looking forward to it.

DOUG MILNE: Okay. With that, we'll open it up and take a few questions.

Q. Have you spent much time up here other than 2016 for the Ryder Cup and what were your memories of that week, maybe in particular that Saturday afternoon match you had with Brooks against Rory and Pieters?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, well, I played the PGA at Hazeltine, also. I played Hazeltine, so I have been up here. Then I actually played the U.S. Am up here, too, at Hazeltine, so I've been up in this area a few times. Never been to this golf course. I've always enjoyed it. You know, the Ryder Cup there at Hazeltine was -- the crowds and stuff were unbelievable, so obviously we're going to miss out on that this year here at the 3M. I've always enjoyed

coming up here and playing golf. There's a lot of really nice golf courses. It's been a great area for me.

Q. What's the approach when you prepare to play a course that you've never seen before?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, just going out and playing it, really. For me, I go out, I obviously want to see the golf course. You know, we get yardage books that chart out the whole course for us, so you don't have to do a whole lot of work, but kind of just -- once I go around it, I can get a pretty good bead on it for the most part just kind of seeing where you want to drive it, where the widest part of the fairway is, where you can attack the course, where you want to be aggressive, where you need to play a little more conservative. Yeah, and then obviously spend a lot of time around the greens. When you don't know a golf course, knowing when they put a flag here, where you need to hit it, where you can't miss it, things like that.

Q. George Floyd (inaudible) three months ago and it's affected a lot of athletes, it seems. How has that impacted you, George Floyd's death, and the events that followed around the country?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, I mean, obviously it's a terrible situation what happened with George. Obviously this is a difficult time for everyone. No one ever wants to see something like that happen. Hopefully we can do things to mitigate those circumstances in the future.

Q. In regards to the course, this is an Arnold Palmer-designed course. What are some of those characteristics that you like about Palmer's courses?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, I feel like this golf course, I've only seen it once, I've been around it one time, so I like the design. I think there's a lot of -- there's a lot of really, you know, holes where you can make birdies, there's some tough holes. I think there's a variety of shots that you've got to hit and there's a variety of different golf holes. We've got a couple par 4s that are 500 yards and then we have some really short ones. It's a lot of fun, the layout is. The course is in immaculate condition, so I think it's going to be a good week. If you play well, you can shoot some good scores here.

Q. Dustin, it seemed like a lot of guys took this week as an opportunity to take a break in their schedule. What was the primary motivation for you coming out here this week?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, I took a couple weeks off after the Travelers, so for me, it fit the schedule this year To play last week and then I'm going to play four in a row here, playing Memphis and then the PGA and then I'll take a week off before the Playoffs. So for me it worked out in the schedule-wise to play this week. You know, from what I heard from the guys, it's a really good golf course. I think 3M, they really take care of us, they do a great job here. I've never played this tournament, so it was something that I wanted to come up and

give it a shot.

Q. Dustin, you've only been around it once, but when this tournament was announced for last year, a lot of people looked at the course and said, even with some of the changes they made, that it might be too easy for you guys. I think Matt Wolff won last year with a 21 under. What are your thoughts just surveying the course, is there a course that's just too easy and does this at all fit the bill?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I don't think the course is too easy. I think they made some changes, too, from last year from what I hear. Obviously I haven't -- it's my first time around it, so it looks normal to me. I think they added a bunch of trees. I don't feel like the course is too easy. I mean, if you play well, that's any golf course, you can shoot a good number, but you're going to have to -- you've got to drive it well. There's a lot of water and there's a lot of trouble off the tees. If you can drive it well, then I feel like you can shoot some good scores.

Q. With what Bryson has done this year and Tony Finau kind of letting it out a little bit last week, are even the bigger hitters like you going to have to adapt and try to keep up in this arms race?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: I don't know. I don't feel like -- I feel like I hit it far enough to keep up and, you know, like I said last week, until I feel like I can't beat these guys with my game or when I'm playing my best, then I'll try to change something. You know, I feel like right now, if I'm playing really good golf, that I can beat them. So until then, that's what I'll have to go back and review.

DOUG MILNE: Dustin, it likes like you are good to go. Thanks for your time, best of luck this week.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Thanks.