

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 23, 2021



JON RAHM

JON RAHM: (in progress) Tony and he had it on his phone, he was reading it. Couldn't believe it. As if he hasn't -- his body hasn't endured enough. I don't know all the facts, I just know he was in an accident and he underwent surgery and he's in the hospital or something like that. Just hoping out of a bad situation, the best possible outcome and I hope he can recover from it and we can see him on the golf course as early as possible. I know he underwent surgery early this year, so I hope he didn't damage anything he had done already.

Q. What has he meant to the PGA TOUR as of late last year or so, especially with the relationships that he's (inaudible)?

JON RAHM: Well, unfortunately I'm not one of those players he's kind of closer to being from opposite sides of the country. I never met him before, you know. So it just looked like obviously he was opening up more to talk about his game and how he accomplished as many things as he did. He's been doing wonderful things with his foundation and charities. Last week he hosted the event, with how much he's done for education (inaudible), not only golf, PGA TOUR directly, but golf worldwide, he's been a huge impact. Always key players in every era and for many reasons he was one of them.

There's a different atmosphere when Tiger's playing to when he's not playing, he is that big. No matter even if the best 20 players in the world are playing, if he's not there you can tell the difference. It's sad to see. He was a great ambassador of the game and looked like he was trying to start to turn his life around and maybe looking forward to the future, to retirement, spending some great time with his son Charlie. I just hope he can get out of the hospital after recovery and he can still play with his kids and have a normal life.

Q. Is it a little bit hard to focus on a big tournament after a day like this?

JON RAHM: I just don't know what's going on, how severe it is. Without knowing all the facts, I'm not going to be able to tell you much, but I think we're all going to be, how do you call it, not expecting, but just waiting to hear some things. Some news in Spain, my dad was telling me about it, I don't know if it's true or not, he's getting leg surgeries right now. I have no idea what's going on. Without having all the info, I can't tell you everything, all I can hope for is the best and speediest recovery from what happened, simple as that.