

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 24, 2021



DUSTIN JOHNSON

PRESTON SMITH: All right. Welcome, Dustin. We would like to welcome World No. 1 Dustin Johnson to the interview room here at the World Golf Championship Workday Championship at The Concession.

Dustin, different venue for this event for this year. How do you go about preparing for a new course like this?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, obviously any new course, the first thing is just get out and see it. Yeah, I mean, obviously with our yardage books and the way they chart courses now, it's pretty easy to figure it out even kind of before you see it.

Played the back nine yesterday and then played the front nine today. So the golf course is really good, it's in good condition. You definitely -- you have to golf your ball, though, if you want to shoot some good scores around here.

Q. Since we're playing at The Concession this week, I was curious how much you're aware of the incident that gave the club its name, the 1969 Ryder Cup, when Nicklaus conceded the putt to Jacklin. Just kind of get your thoughts on what you think of that and if you were in a similar situation, would you have conceded that putt?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: No, I think that's cool. Obviously, the history of the name is in the golf -- it's a great golf course, obviously. Yeah, I'm not really sure what I would do in that situation, but I'd probably give it to him.

Q. A few of his teammates were apparently pretty mad at him for doing that. Could you understand their side of that, too, or are you a pro-concession guy?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Obviously he was in the situation, so he knows better than anybody. But yeah, I mean, obviously with anything like that there's always going to be two sides, so you can kind of see both sides of it, for sure.

PRESTON SMITH: Dustin, obviously you've had great results so far this year. Do you want to just speak to your game at the moment coming into the event?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah. I feel like it's in really good form. Last week I was a little bit off, but got some nice work in the last couple days here at Concession. And yeah, I feel like it's back where I'm hitting it a lot better. Obviously, last week, tough golf course, tough conditions, but I just didn't -- I wasn't quite as sharp as I'd like to, especially off the tee. Didn't drive it quite as good. But this week, I put in the new SIM driver, SIM-2, so it's been

going okay the last two days.

Q. Dustin, obviously a lot of talk about Tiger right now. I'm just curious, when you heard the news, what you first thought of it, and have you allowed yourself to think about what the Tour will be like without Tiger one day, even though, with age, it was headed that direction at some point? Does it almost bring it closer, do you know?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Yeah, I mean, obviously it's a terrible situation, you never want anything bad to happen to people. Obviously hopefully hope for a speedy recovery. He's such a big part of the PGA TOUR and what it's become today. Yeah, once he's not playing anymore, definitely the game will miss him, but I feel like he'll always somehow be around and involved with the game, so at least for a little while.

Q. Dustin, just on a similar thing, I wonder where you were when you heard the news and what your initial reaction was, whether it was shock, or how did you feel?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Well, yeah, first reaction is hope he's okay and it's not too serious. Still don't really know exactly, you know, I guess, what the injuries are or how bad they are, so I don't think really anybody does.

Yeah, I was out on the golf course, I was playing the back nine here. Yes, it's definitely -- obviously, prayers go out to him and his family and hopefully everything works out.

Q. It was around this time last year that I think you announced that you wouldn't play the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. I'm wondering now this year, with the Tokyo games coming up, if you're ranked high enough, if you've decided whether you'll play?

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Not sure yet. I was just asked that this morning by one of the Tour officials. I've still got a couple weeks to make my decision.

PRESTON SMITH: If there's no other questions, Dustin, thank you for your time.

DUSTIN JOHNSON: Thank you.