

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**February 16, 2022**



**JON RAHM**

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**JON RAHM:** All right. Well, I mean since I wasn't aware I was not going to have a press conference this week, that's why I take this time to say that this is my official, my one and only time I'll talk about this where I am officially declaring, let's say, my fealty to the PGA TOUR. I'm a PAC member and I have a lot of belief in Jay Monahan and the product that they're going to give us in the future. There has been a lot of talk and speculation on the Saudi League. It's just not something I believe is the best for me and my future in golf, and I think the best legacy I can accomplish will be with the PGA TOUR.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** I have no idea. I've said it many times in press conferences before, I don't do this for the money, which to me is the only appeal to go over there. They throw numbers at you and that's supposed to impress people. I'm in this game for the love of golf and the love of the game and to become a champion, right? I grew up watching many great players play great events such as this one and there's history and legacy to those things. That's something that has a lot of appeal to me.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** You know, you hear all those things that are going on. Like oh, some players might have signed some NDA, some players might have signed and committed. I'm somebody who's kind of stayed away from it on purpose, and some of the things I heard and rumors coming from Saudi, I thought there would be a pretty good week, especially yesterday we had our first PAC meeting. Being a PAC member, I thought, you know, I'm in a situation where it's almost a little bit of my duty to make my stand in this instance.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** I haven't. I made it very clear to my management team to don't even bother me with it until this was something that was maybe real and it never came back. The only things I ever heard were from players. To me, again, the only thing they have is, oh, you get -- you hear, oh, Bryson got \$135 million, this person got \$100 million. I already made more money in my life than I ever thought I was going to make, so that's not the appealing part to me, right? Week in and week out over here you're playing against the best players in the world. I don't think the PGA TOUR's a bad product and it's only going to get better.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** I don't know where it's coming from. I mean, I know I'm probably -- out of the

top-10 players in the world and the people you assume are talking to them, I probably know the least out of all players. I've had personally zero conversations with any of them and I did that on purpose. My job is to play golf and all of that is speculation. That's all I can say about it. I have no idea. I've been told by other players, but I don't know what to believe.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** Everybody's free to make their own choice, it's as simple as that. All I can say is from somebody young like myself who has his entire future ahead of him, it doesn't seem like a smart thing.

Again, the only appeal I see is monetary, right? So like I said just earlier on, I think there's a lot more to be able to play for besides just money on the PGA TOUR. There's history, there's legacy. At the end of the day, I'm in this to win tournaments, I'm in this to play against the best in the world. Yeah, that has a lot of value to it.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** Yeah.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** They're combined. I mean, there's five different points in the criteria; one of them's TV time on the weekends. Social media's just part of it, Google searches. I think the better you play, the more exposure you're going to have, the more likely you're going to be out there.

Nobody should be surprised when Phil and Tiger are 1 and 2 because they're the most popular players we have and Tiger hasn't been able to play. So I understand why the PGA TOUR made the PIP program and I think it's a very good tool to reach a little bit farther out to where we were at, trying to make golf reachable to more places and more exposure, just trying to make the product bigger, which in turn in the future we're going to be able to have a better product to play for out here.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** I haven't done anything, but it is a thought. You know, I'm not going to go like some players have gone and spend a lot of time on social media and put a lot more effort than need be into it because, you know, my focus should be on trying to be the best golfer I can be.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** I mean, I can't speak for majors, but if you're jumping ship and abandoning the PGA TOUR chasing the product you're offering there, no, I don't think so.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** You put it in such a negative thought. Again, they're free to do the choice to choose whatever they want to do and in their mind they're probably doing what they think is best for them, right? So I don't think anybody's a traitor in that sense, they're just choosing a different path. Again, I think you choose to either play here or there.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** Yeah.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** I do agree it was inappropriate but I believe Charlie was more venting off than anything else. What Charlie needed to say was said yesterday in our first PAC meeting, right? He is somebody that has been involved in our Tour for a very long time and has done a lot of wonderful things for the PGA TOUR and the members. You know, one mistake doesn't characterize a whole career. I think it was just a hiccup. I bet the Commissioner and the PGA TOUR already spoke to him about how to handle the situation and I'm sure Charlie knows it. He did apologize to all of us yesterday, so as far as I'm concerned, it's now his and the PGA TOUR's job to discuss any repercussion that may come from it. But I do believe it was more venting off than anything else.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**JON RAHM:** I have no idea. Like I said, my absence from all this hasn't been, you know, a coincidence. I just want to stay out of it. I haven't really spoken to too many people. Some players have the knack of bringing it up every time they can. I just don't want to hear about it. It's as simple as that. I think we have a pretty good gig where we are. I don't know, I think it could be that the more people that speak out towards the PGA TOUR might sway the decision of some people, but I have no idea.