

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
February 17, 2022



PAT PEREZ (-1)

Q. This is predicated on you having read the story this morning about Phil Mickelson. Did you read it?

PAT PEREZ: I didn't read, no. I just got the -- I don't even really know what it is. Give me the Cliff Notes.

Q. The Cliff Note, well, he takes it to the Tour, which is nothing new, it's something he's done, but he also took it to the Saudis and said that -- I don't know what I can say.

PAT PEREZ: Shipnuck took it to the Saudis?

Q. No, Phil. Direct quote from Phil. My question would be, as a player, are you comfortable with Phil speaking out like this? And it seems like he's speaking for a lot of players.

PAT PEREZ: I asked the question this morning to another player, why didn't he play Phoenix and why is he not playing here. He's never missed these. I'm surprised he didn't play.

I don't know, I don't know what Phil's doing. I know Phil's got a lot of stress in life right now and I don't know what he's doing. I know he's not speaking for me and, you know, I actually really don't care what he has to say about anything because I just don't. He doesn't speak for me.

He's had an amazing career, he obviously thinks there's something else on the other side for him going down the line. If he gets it, great. He's made \$800 million on the Tour, I don't know what could be so bad about the Tour. So I don't know, I don't know.

I think the way Tiger's approaching it is phenomenal. I think he understands where he made all his money. I think these young kids, I think that's great that they're backing Tiger. But Tiger, Tiger's our guy. Tiger and I are three months apart. I idolized him my whole life even though we're the same age. What he says is pretty much gold. You know, I would follow his lead more than anything. If he doesn't want to do it, Rory doesn't want to do it and if you don't have the top kids doing it, I just don't know how much water it's going to hold anyway. I don't know how long it's going to take.

They're not going to follow Phil, they're not going to follow DeChambeau unfortunately. You need the young crew right now to go do this thing. I don't know exactly what Phil, why he's

got so much hate towards the Tour. I mean, He's damn near 52 now. I know he won a major last year. It's incredible what he did, it really is, but I don't know, you know.

What I don't understand about the whole thing, I don't even know how many people have signed or not signed, I haven't heard anything about it. I haven't been approached so it doesn't really matter to me either way. I'm in line with the PGA TOUR because that's all I have, that's all I have.

For me to make roughly \$40 million total with everything of a guy that got kicked out of college, that whole thing and was supposed to be a garbage man really. For me, yeah, I've earned every penny of it because we have to do it all the time. Like everybody else, they've earned every penny that they have.

So I see kind of the gripe of the top players, maybe they should get more from the TV contracts or from whatever. I can see that, I can see it. I don't really know enough on both sides because, like I said, I haven't been approached, I don't know what's transpiring between the two, between the Saudi group and the top players. I'm just kind of hearing hearsay.

I've talked to some players about it and some are either like, well, you know, I would think about it if it was enough, we don't know how long it's going to be.

The biggest question is there's no guarantee with that tour. The PGA TOUR's going to be around a long time. If 60 guys leave, there's going to be 60 more guys that come up and fill those spots. There's a line from here to Florida of guys who want to play on the PGA TOUR, so it's not a lack of players.

You know, the PGA TOUR's been great. Could they probably, you know, throw some more our way? Maybe. Yeah, not maybe, but the top players, if I was a top player I would want a little more. The TV contract's massive.

I still think, I've said it forever, why are we out money every week? If I'm one of the 125, which I have been for 20 years, why am I not starting out with some money? Why do we not get 250 grand out of the gates.

I'm all for charity, I do a lot for charity, I help out people all the time, but you know. Like last week, I mean, how is that purse not \$40 million? You tell me they didn't make enough money? And I've got to go through all that for two days and leave with nothing? That's kind of unfair really.

You know, when the guys in baseball or basketball, these guys get worn out, they're making 300 grand that night. I mean, that's nice.

I don't really know -- the bottom line is I don't really know what Phil said. I don't know what his anger is with the Tour. I don't really understand it, so I can't really comment on exactly

what he's done, but if you want to enlighten me more on it.

Q. One of the points that he made, and I would like to get your reaction to it, is the idea that he's going to use the leverage of this tour to try to make the PGA TOUR better pointing out a lot of things he doesn't like that the PGA TOUR --

PAT PEREZ: I'm all for that. If Phil is speaking on behalf of the Tour to make the Tour better and maybe bring in more money, I'm behind him on that. I think that's what everybody wants.

I think with the Saudi thing, at the end the Saudi deal has made it where all of a sudden we've got a PIP program. I can't win that, I would have to win three times and streak, you know. I can't win that.

It's kind of a joke, but like I said, the PIP program's kind of a joke. Give Tiger the 40 and say we owe you another zero. They owe Tiger \$400, \$500 million easily. There should be no program. Here you go, here's 50, thanks for being incredible, here's the money we owe you because you brought in hundreds of millions of dollars to us.

Guys like me, to be able to make, you know, a couple million dollars a year is unbelievable and it's only because of him. It's only because of him, you know. So like I said, I'm in line with Tiger. But if Phil is pushing for more money towards our tour and fighting for it, that'd be great, but he seems to be so on the Saudi side that it's hard to believe that he's actually fighting for that.

Q. If it's up to those guys to play or go?

PAT PEREZ: I don't know why there's so much talk; either put a piece of paper in front of the guy and deposit checks or quit talking about it. From what I keep hearing, well, the money, they keep talking. If you're going to talk, put the money in there. If you have \$2 billion, then start paying these guys. Give them the money and say, hey, I've got 75, I've got 100, you got to do it, (Indiscernible) in my account, okay? Well, That's how you're really going to get it.

There's too many people, there's too many young kids that are still on the fence of, well, you know, is the money going to come in and how long's the tour going to be around and where are we going and who is the TV and who's the sponsors. Those are all the questions these young kids have and they really should because Cantlays, Morikawas, all these young kids, Rahms, these guys are going to make a fortune. They're not going to lose their card, they're going to be out here forever, they're going to win majors, they're going to do all these things. There's going to be plenty of money. For them, I've talked to all of them and they all are kind of that consensus that they're going to stay here because they know that.

So you look at the older group that wants to do it, they all have had phenomenal careers. Justin Rose, Adam Scott, Phil, these older guys that are my age. You throw me a hundred

and I actually get it, I'm gone. I would take it. Why wouldn't you?

Adam Scott, he's not going to play 30 events anymore. He's got three young kids. Throw him \$75 million, only got to play four more years, why wouldn't he? He's got nothing to prove.

Justin Rose. Phil's got less than nothing to prove. I mean, that guy's done everything. You.

So you start throwing around those kind of numbers. It's not like we're talking about \$2 million. Phil's made \$50-plus million for 20 years now. If he doesn't have to play as much out here and he can run a tour and be part of something like that and he thinks he's going to make \$150, \$200 million, why the hell wouldn't you? Of course you want to do that, that's real money, that's big time action, you know.

I see where Phil is, I see where these other guys are, but I really think you're going to need some of the younger guys to do it. The fact that Tiger's against it and Rahm and Morikawa and Cantlay. I mean, and Rory is a big thing. Rory's our chairman of the Tour. I think it's phenomenal. We haven't had a top player be the chairman of our PAC forever. Tiger, Phil, they were on top, they never did it. I'm glad that Rory's that way.

I'm really glad that Tiger says what he says and his legacy's with the Tour. I firmly believe he believes that. And they could pay him, whatever, \$500 to be part of that tour, but I really believe he doesn't want to be associated with that group. That's kind of how I see it. If Phil is really trying to help us out, leverage and get more money for us, that would be awesome because Phil has the name to be able to do it, he really does.

Q. I want to circle back on what you said about getting guaranteed money for the 125, we've heard that before.

PAT PEREZ: They're doing a deal this year, but it's not -- it's not what we're talking about. Like I said, the charity thing is phenomenal. We give the most away. We give, what, almost \$3 billion away but it takes everybody to be here to do it. You've got guys missing cuts.

I had a guy, I had a friend one year made \$22,000 on the Tour. He lost, he was in the hole about 90 grand. Mind you, he didn't play well and I get it, but how can he be out money? He earned his card and he was out like 90 grand that year. That's hard to do. Think about it, you're playing at the top.

The problem is the top guys are making so much money, they're not really interested in whether or not they get another, you know, couple hundred grand or whatever. They're making so much money, justly so. But a guy like me, you give me 250 to start, that would be nice.

Q. If those top guys are getting \$5 to \$10 million at the start of the year, do you think that would affect the competitive product?

PAT PEREZ: Yeah, I just don't know how much the Tour can actually pay everybody with all the things they have. I just don't know, I don't know enough about it. I just don't know how much they could actually give everybody. I just don't --

Our purses are going up. Jay Monahan's done a phenomenal job getting our purses to go up. We've got \$12 million events now, \$20 million events and they're only going to keep climbing. I heard in five years the FedExCup winner is going to win \$52 million. That's pretty awesome, and as he should, as he should.

Jay and the Tour, from what I understand, is doing a phenomenal job. They talk about growing the game. I don't see how that group over there is growing the game. The Tour has done phenomenal things. They do phenomenal things for the communities that we go to. They have programs for underprivileged now. That's how you grow the game.

I don't know, Phil's made a fortune. I don't know how much more fortune he needs, but if he is really trying to help our Tour, I'd be behind him for that. I just don't know about it. Like I said, I don't know enough about what this guy's saying or this guy's saying or what's going on with the tour because I haven't been approached by anybody, so I really have no idea of what the Saudi group is trying to do, where they're going to play, do they have spots.

What I do know is that this tournament's going to be here next year, and every tournament we play in's awesome and that's what I do know. And I'm thankful that I have this job that I can do this week in and week out. You know, I would never say anything bad about the Tour because I've had an unbelievable life doing it, and I still have the Champ Tour to think about it. I'm exempt on the Champions Tour for as long as I want to play. That's an unbelievable type of retirement thing on top of the retirement package that we have already. I've got no reason to bitch about anything. I'm kind of one of those lucky guys that I think I see it the right way.

You know, bottom line, I don't know what Phil said, I don't really care, but if he's trying to help our Tour, that would be great because he has the name. And if Tiger got involved and Rory and these guys, our top names that are going to align with him to help that, I'm all for it.

Like I said, I've made crumbs compared to him and those crumbs pay nice. It's still pretty good money taking his crumbs. That's kind of where I'm at with the whole thing. I don't know enough about what's going on, I just kind of hear a little here and there. I just don't know. But I'm all for building the Tour, but like I said, I think the PGA TOUR's a phenomenal place to play, you know, and I'm lucky to be here.