

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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NICK TAYLOR



MODERATOR: We'll get started, we would like to welcome Nick Taylor to the interview room here at the Genesis Invitational. Nick won the WM Phoenix Open last week in a playoff leading to No. 6 in the Fed Ex standings and a career high No. 28 in the official World Golf Rankings.

Nick, before we get into this week, just looking back to that dramatic finish on Sunday birdieing three of the last four holes to beat Charley in a playoff, what was that finish like for you and what have the last 48 hours been like?

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, it was quite the finish, quite the week, quite the day. You know, to shoot a round like that 60 that first day going back to that first round, those rounds don't happen very often. You try to stay out of your own way. I had a great feeling on the greens all week, but the first and last day is when I pretty much made everything.

It was one of those where I just want to get myself on the green. I stayed pretty tight early on, hit some really loose shots off the tee and scrambled incredible to make some pars and kind of hang in there. Found a bit of a rhythm coming in and was able to make a couple birdies to feel like I was within reach of Charley. For that putt to kind of sneak in on 18 and ride the momentum into the playoff was great. It was obviously a very exciting day and finish.

Q. Making your ninth start here at the Genesis Invitational, how do you keep the momentum going this week into the third Signature Event of the season?

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, this is one of my favorite stops. For me the next day and a half, two days until we start is kind of keep my energy up, conserve -- I'm not going to do a whole lot today but tomorrow it will be nice to see the golf course the day before and from there just kind of ride the momentum. Again, this is one of my favorite golf courses. I like a lot of the sights off the tees and it being a difficult course, I love that too, so I'm looking forward to it.

Q. You're developing a reputation as a closer, the guy who closes out golf tournaments. I think you beat Phil at Pebble and you made that putt in Canada and you made a bunch of putts this last weekend.

What is your process when it gets tight like that and how are you able to kind of summon your best, especially on the greens in those big moments?

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, I think I enjoy being in those moments. I think for me for whatever reason for a long time bad thoughts seemed to go out of my brain versus if -- I zone in on



what I want to do and don't overthink things. I think that is what helps, why the ball decides to go in the hole at the right time it seems to be in the last two years. Who knows, I think it's obviously a lot of hard work put into it, but I think getting the right mindset has been something when I get in those moments has come to me relatively naturally and I've always enjoyed being in those moments.

Q. The putt on 18, it looked like it was going to miss on the low side. Have you watched the replay? It almost look like it kind of bobbles left and catches the edge.

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, I did see the replay. Yeah, it was nice that it bobbed left. I think the speed helped, it was kind of a drippy speed, but I only saw the video actually once and it was comparing to Rickie, he made a similar putt I think five, six years ago to get in the playoff. His was more dead center, but it leaks right and then comes back left. I don't know if that had anything to do with it, but the best part there was the speed to actually give me a chance to maybe bubble back in left, but yeah that was a nice surprise.

Q. Last time you came to L.A. I believe it was following the Canadian Open, is that right?

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, true.

Q. And I was wondering, when you are the guy doing the winner's press conference the next week and there's all this attention that you get, is it hard to kind of look back into the tournament that follows the tournament you win?

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, I think it is. I think that's why, you know, things that Tiger's done for so long of winning back-to-back tournaments, other people that have performed very well the next week is super impressive. I think I can draw on maybe after the Canadian Open last year and try to maybe tweak things a little bit. Pretty overwhelmed I think last year after the Canadian Open, all the attention, the amount of media stuff I had to do.

Just try to look back on that experience and try to tweak a little bit and just be a little more prepared and be in the right mindset teeing off Thursday.

Yeah, the biggest thing is try to get my energy back up for Thursday, I think that's the biggest thing. Obviously my game's in a good spot, so I don't need to overthink that part.

Q. Nick, just going back to last week, all the talk after about the fans and the rowdiness and all. What are your thoughts on that and would it be best to try to find away to scale it back a little bit?

NICK TAYLOR: From the videos that I've seen, those instances are unfortunate, but I don't think it's a standalone, it's been like that for a bit. But I think the cat's probably out of the bag. I don't know how much they can change. I think it's a week where the classic line is that I



can do this for one week but multiple weeks, probably not.

You know, it's a shame when only a very small percentage of fans are like that, it gets exposed a bit, but the majority of the fans are great, they're just trying to watch some good golf and cheer.

Yeah, that needs to be cut out. I don't know how they're going to be able to do that. I think this year again with the weather, everybody kind of getting in the same area waiting around, it was probably a perfect storm to cause some of that a little more, but I'm not sure how they would real it back to be honest.

Q. They drink better in Phoenix or Canada?

NICK TAYLOR: You know what, they drink a lot of alcohol in Phoenix, but Canada's pretty good, too.

Q. For someone who goes -- who wins and then goes five or six years before his next one and then two or three years until Canada last year, to win back-to-back, is there any extra special meaning? Back-to-back years, I mean.

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, for sure. I think only winning -- only -- winning four times is I don't know if I expected that necessarily when I started pro golf or even out here. Even after Pebble being such a long stint from Sanderson before was try to cherish this because you never know if it's going to happen again. Again from the Canadian Open to win this only eight months later or whatever it's been I still have to be grateful and cherish it because it may never happen again. Yeah, I think you embrace it a little more every time it happens. I still want to win more obviously, but I think it's never easy, I guess, is the way to put it. You've got to be just grateful when it happens and try to celebrate it.

Q. Secondly, I don't know if we talked about this at Kapalua or not, but such a big year with Olympics, Presidents Cup after that, but in terms of the importance of that win with kind of the battle of you and Corey and Adam and Taylor and Mac, and I'm losing track of that, how much are you paying attention to it and how meaningful would it be to be in Paris?

NICK TAYLOR: It would be super meaningful. I tried at the start of the year, those are huge goals of mine but also golf will kind of take care of that. If I'm looking week after week of where I am, what I need to do, it's only going to be hurtful. This is obviously a good start, it puts me in position. We're still quite a long ways away, probably four or five months until the cutoff is. Yeah, it's a pretty dream start to start the year after that being a huge goal of mine. Still want to play a lot of good golf to solidify that, but it would be amazing to be in Paris, for sure.

Q. You shot 65 the last round, I think you lost a couple strokes to the field off the tee, maybe six fairways or so.



NICK TAYLOR: Um-hmm.

Q. Is that something that you kind of ignore the stats and it was just one of those days with the driving and the putting carried you or is it something you're going to kind of tweak to get ready for this place?

NICK TAYLOR: It's something I'll definitely look at. The funny thing is I think the first day I was number one off the tee so there was a bit of disparity there. Hitting in the hazard on the third hole obviously kills your stats, but first four, five holes were pretty loose swings. And it was actually very similar to the second day. I don't know -- I thought finishing your round and going straight to the next round would be pretty helpful. It seemed to be I got a little tight when that happened. I said it Sunday, I think we had nine minutes from when we signed our card to going to the tee. It was just kind of an odd scenario that we hadn't really dealt with before. I'm sure if you looked at the stats, those first four or five holes killed my stats, but coming down the back nine felt more comfortable. I had better rhythm and definitely hit some better drives.

Yeah, I'll try to look at that, but overall I thought I actually did drive it pretty great. Probably the first six holes, the second and fourth round we were just a little loose, but overall I think it was pretty good.

Q. And now that you won a few times, how much do you sit down and look at the numbers of the week or is there not much time?

NICK TAYLOR: Like stats-wise?

Q. Yeah.

NICK TAYLOR: There's probably seven or eight stat categories, I don't remember exactly what they're called, that we kind of looked at in the offseason, where I made the biggest jumps last year which seemed to correlate strongly with results and last week a lot of them were where we wanted to be if not exceeded them, so we kind of have our areas we wanted to improve. Total driving is definitely something for me where if I drive it well and my iron game and putting has been really solid for a couple years that when that's on, I feel like I can compete in a lot of places. That's probably the biggest area I'm trying to improve a little bit.

Q. With your win last year in Canada and then all the Canadian guys that Doug mentioned, Presidents Cup is coming to Canada later this year, does it feel like kind of a moment for Canadian golf? Do you get the sense the sport's getting also more attention?

NICK TAYLOR: Yeah, I hope so. I think when Mike Weir was announced as captain, knowing it's in Montreal, I think every Canadian that's been out here, that's definitely something they you want to be a part of. Golf's been in the spotlight more so than it ever has



been the last couple years and I think the Presidents Cup is no different. So it's a team I'd love to be on.

Q. Nick, with Tiger Woods as a host of the Genesis Invitational, do you recall when you first met him, yours first interaction with him, whether you played with him first time, just some thoughts on that?

NICK TAYLOR: I've never met Tiger actually. There's been a few times where I was very close to being paired with him. Actually last year here we both made the cut on the number and looked like we were potentially going to play with each other and then I got a few texts that I was going to play with Tiger and whatever happened late, a few guys bogeyed and whatever the scenario was I ended up not being. I haven't. I hope to one day. I hope he keeps playing as much as he can so that scenario works out, so hopefully.

Q. Do you think you'll make that a priority to meet him this week?

NICK TAYLOR: I'll try to.

Q. So you won an exemption on to Web.com early in your career and Chase Johnson, he has the exemption on to Genesis. What does that mean to get those exemptions for players early in their career?

NICK TAYLOR: It's huge to get an opportunity. I think you try not to make it as big a deal probably as it is. If you overemphasize it, I think you put a lot of pressure to yourself to perform and play well because it's an opportunity that's tough to get, but it's huge. It's really fun to be able to get that opportunity to play in an event, especially like this. Hope Chase plays well, but it's a lot of fun to get those chances and hopefully take advantage of it.

