

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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MAX HOMA

MODERATOR: We'd like to welcome 2021 Genesis Invitational winner Max Homa into the interview room.

Max, could we just get an opening comment from you and your return to Riviera Country Club, four consecutive top-10s at this event coming in?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, this is one of my favorite places in the planet, it's my favorite Tour stop. It's cool I'm kind of like double defending because I'm like the last champion that's still here, which is sweet.

But I enjoy coming here, it's fun. I got to see one of my buddies Zach last night, got to do friends and family stuff. Haven't been back here for a while just for fun. It's cool getting to come to an event that's really close to your hometown and feel like you're almost -- it's not a vacation but kind of like a little homecoming for me, and it helps that this is my favorite golf course we play, so it's just a treat to always be back here.

Q. So, Max, it's your favorite golf course -- I'm over here. What is it about it that you love compared to so many other places you play, and because you like it, I mean obviously your record's fantastic, but does that add a little extra pressure? Do you ever find yourself trying a little too hard here?

MAX HOMA: For the second part of that question, I used to -- I got lucky and got a couple sponsors here my first couple years as a pro and I definitely feel like this is a major to me.

It felt like I was really trying to do my best in front of my friends and family, although I know they don't care. That's why last year was hard just because I felt like I was finally playing well, I had everybody out and didn't quite finish it. So I've gotten kind of past the trying hard part.

It's my favorite just because it doesn't have really a hazard, it doesn't really have out of bounds that really comes into play, maybe a couple shots, and it's just hard. It's not crazy long. Obviously the air doesn't make the ball go super far, so it plays long. It's one of those few golf courses I think that can play soft or firm and still be a pretty stout test. It's better when it's firm, but it can still be a stout test. Something about the kikuyu in front of the greens that you can't bounce a ball up, precision is mega rewarded and there's certain holes -- always fascinated, the fifth hole is the best example. If you put the pin -- you could change the pin by 35 feet, 40 feet between one round and the next. I'd love to know what the scoring average is because if you put it on the middle left side it's one the easiest second shots you'll have. If you put it front right or back right, not that far away and it's all of a



sudden just I hope I make par. I love that they can do that with just pin positions, they don't need a lot of weather help for it. I'm not a golf architect expert here, but that's just what I notice about this place.

Q. Did you notice a little tinkering on 10 today and will that change your strategy at all?

MAX HOMA: Actually, it was pretty fascinating again what they do around here, I guess the beauty of it, if someone hadn't told me it would be pretty hard to notice. Now that someone pointed it out I saw it. It won't strategy at all. But that was pretty neat what they did there, same with 15, but it's so subtle, I think it would be hard. They didn't change the hole too much and I think that's great. They softened it a little bit. I really don't think I would have noticed too much if someone wouldn't have pointed it out yesterday before I even played it.

Q. With all of the things that you're talking about with this course, does this course make you think a lot more than maybe you do on some other courses because of all the things you were talking about?

MAX HOMA: I think actually the reason I've been successful here is for whatever reason I just see this place really well and I actually think my brain's off a lot more. I know where's good, I know where's bad, but I also know when I'm in a bad spot where to go next. Part of it, I don't know, maybe from walking this golf course as a kid forever and it's maybe just by osmosis I learned a bit about it. It's weird, I don't -- it can make you think, but it's become in a good way autopilot for me. If I just look at a pin sheet, I would be able to kind of play any scenario out better. It's just one of those, I think everybody out here has a course are or courses they feel that way about, mine just happens to be mere.

Q. What do you remember most about the battle last year with Jon?

MAX HOMA: Man, I don't know about the most. I remember the 13th hole, we both snap-hooked it and his ended up fine and mine was so bad. For some reason, that sticks out.

I remember how fun it was, it really was. I'm enamored by Jon's golf game, he's just tremendous. I just remember telling myself Sunday, he had a lead, I didn't play well Saturday, kept myself in the final group but I didn't play well and he played awesome, like really awesome.

I just remember my whole goal Sunday driving in was I'm going to make him feel my presence today and he's going to have to beat me and if he does, I'm going to get to watch some pretty darn good golf. And that's what he did, he played really well. He hit so many great shots and things you would remember. He made a long putt on 14, he almost made a hole in one on 16, he did a bunch of amazing stuff, but that's the stuff you would expect.

I just remember like, I don't know, just the joy of getting to push somebody who I find to be



one of the best golfers I'll ever see and feel like, you know, for a minute there I got him pretty nervous and it felt good.

I would like obviously to have won and I would like to win more going forward, but I do need to take a positive in that that he had a three-shot lead there and for a minute there I had him. It's just cool to be able to keep that in your back pocket and take that and learn and hopefully become a better player than him at some point. But as of last year he was going to be the No. 1 player in the world, it was fun to really battle with somebody who's the best player in the world.

Q. Do you feel like that's something you'll remember as you get gray and older, those days like that?

MAX HOMA: Yeah. I think it's easy to sit here now and try to puff my chest out and say I was so disappointed to myself and why would you ever think to yourself I was just happy to be there and try my best, but I couldn't have done a whole lot more that day. I really dug in and fought real hard and thought I did a great job, just he played better.

I do think when I'm older sitting in a rocking chair telling stories to people that don't want to listen to me that will be one that comes out.

Q. Knowing what Tiger has meant to you and what it meant for him to hand you the trophy, I'm kind of curious how the vibe this week changes for you with him out here playing and seemingly looking pretty healthy?

MAX HOMA: I'm just happy to see the man not limping as much. Every event's better when Tiger is here. It's pretty amazing what he brings to an event with his presence on the golf course. Obviously it's great that he's had his name attached to this, but you want to see him play, all the fans want to see him play. I don't think it changes a whole lot, it just makes the event feel a bit bigger.

Yeah, I don't know, they always say especially when you're a rookie your first Tour event, you play Farmers because Tiger's there, that's actually when it starts to feel like what you watched on TV. Something about that when he's around, you have less people watching you play golf, but there are more people watching golf which is cool.

Q. You alluded to the fact that you're essentially double defending due to the current landscape of golf. Last week you spoke about the SSG investment.

How much is equity groups and investments and the future of golf dominating your brain space right now versus actually playing golf?

MAX HOMA: About one out of 100 I would say. My focus is on hopefully being a part of a group of golfers who can entertain the fans best we can. All that stuff's great, it's way over my head, it's above my pay grade. I just hope that everything that comes from this is tailored



to making golf more fun to watch, more fun to be at. Like growing the game through this -- whatever this investment will do.

I hope that it's for -- obviously they want to make money back, but I hope it's for a purpose to bring -- not only bring more eyeballs to golf, but also like keep the eyeballs we've got and make it better. People spend a lot of their time watching golf on TV or watching sports on TV and you want it to continue to evolve to be tailored to that person because they're investing time and energy and emotion into something and you want them to get that back. You watch something like the Super Bowl and there's a reason people are so invested in it, it's because it's a culmination of a year. Even when you don't care about the teams a lot, you feel what they feel and you're sucked in as a fan. Whatever that may be, I want more of that for the fans and less distraction from the point of this, which is to bring people some kind of joy or some kind of emotion on Saturdays and Sundays.

Q. Max, speaking of distractions, do you pay for Twitter?

MAX HOMA: No.

Q. And that could be like a decent little side hustle for you with the engagement you get. Have you given that any thought to why you may or may not pay for it?

MAX HOMA: To sound like the worst ever, I have enough money not to have to side hustle on my least favorite app in the world. I'm good on that. Less engagement is fine.

MODERATOR: Thank you for your time and best of luck this week.

