

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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TIGER WOODS

MARK WILLIAMS: I would like to welcome Tiger Woods, the tournament host of the Genesis Invitational, founder of the foundation.

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, how about that.

MARK WILLIAMS: And also a competitor in the field second year running. Tiger, pro-am today. What do you think of the course and how are you feeling?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, we had an absolute blast and couldn't ask for a more perfect weather day and we just had a bunch of fun talking trash, telling stories and just enjoying just a really fun day.

MARK WILLIAMS: I know it's a busy week for you with hosting and with Sun Day Red, but from a golf perspective what would make this week a success?

TIGER WOODS: A nice W would be nice, right? I haven't ever won this event. I played in this event since '92 and the years I've played I still have never won this event. Hopefully I can figure something out and get myself in there in contention and maybe get a W at the end of the week.

Q. Tiger, this is the first time a lot of us have seen you since you had your new role with the tour board. There are a lot of fans who kind of want to know what is it that the fans are going to see out of this? You're somebody who's actually run tournaments, benefit the beneficiary of an exemption in this one, been very well aware of the history of the Tour and the model. But what would you say to the fans out there who have heard all this talk about money and private equity and all that stuff? What would you say they should be getting excited about looking forward to coming down the road?

TIGER WOODS: Well, at the end of the day, we're trying to provide the best entertainment, and in order to do that you have to have the best players play.

We want to have the history, involve the history and the traditions of the history of our tour and have the pathways, accessibility, have all of the intangibles that have made the PGA TOUR what it is right now and what has been, and hopefully what it will continue to be even better. And how do we do that? That's the whole idea of why we have a group like SSG to provide us with information and help and trying to create the best tour we could possibly have.



Q. Just wondering if this week elicits memories of the accident a few years back and how much -- how would you describe the grind to get back to this point for you has been, to be playing again?

TIGER WOODS: As far as the accident that happened, I don't really have that much bearing of the history of this event. Do I feel it physically? Yeah, I do. Do I feel it physically? Absolutely, each and every day. Unfortunately that's part of having surgeries and rehab.

But I'm excited about this week and I'm excited about competing and playing.

Q. Tiger, hosting duties for the tournament itself is a lot of work for you. At what point in the last couple of months did you officially decide, OK, I am going to play as well and then once you decide, what does the process look like training wise, how often are you playing to get to a place where you feel competition ready and potentially get a win?

TIGER WOODS: Kira, it's been an ongoing process. How the body feels from day to day and the grind of trying to practice and get ready for an event, just the overall just aging process of it all, that has been the trick of it and been the challenge of it. Since I have played, what, basically this will be my first Tour event back, since then I've had my ankle fused, so that's different, and I had two soft events playing at Hero and the PNC.

So trying to get used to the new feels of the body. That's always the challenge. And the challenges of trying to get Tour ready, that's been what we've been trying to do the last couple weeks and trying be sure I'm physically fit and ready to play this event. Being ready for tomorrow.

We have our work cut out for us and look forward to it.

Q. Unrelated, I'm sure you've been asked this once or twice in your career as it relates to Riv, but why haven't you ever won here? What do you think it is about this course that has causes you problems?

TIGER WOODS: I have traditionally not putted well here. This is a fader's delight, most of the holes are, for a righty, run left to right. I've driven it well here. There are small greens and traditionally throughout my entire career my iron game has been pretty good, but I have never really gotten hot with the putter at this course. Generally they're bumpy poa, so it's been a little bit tricky. For some reason it just has never compiled to a hot week.

I had one where I had a chance, I guess Ernie, and hit a foul ball on the last hole. Other than that, I really haven't had that many opportunities for some reason.

Q. And then from the launch the other night, I was thinking about this later, with leaving Nike and now being with TaylorMade, what happens to the TW logo? Do you ever get that back?



TIGER WOODS: No.

Q. Do you want it back?

TIGER WOODS: I don't want it back, I've moved on. This is a transition in my life. I've moved on to Sun Day Red and we're looking forward to building a brand that elicits excitement and is transformative.

Q. Tiger, I haven't heard your version of why SSG is the right partner for the PGA TOUR and why private equity is the right way for the future.

TIGER WOODS: Well, the consortium that they have at SSG, the partners that they have that have come together to be a part of this group is quite remarkable to be honest with you in the sports industry. They're unbelievable leaders. At the time that we need great leadership going forward, I think this elicits that. It has amazing -- the amazing brains of ideas that can make this tour better and we're looking forward to that.

Q. What is the holdup in making the deal with PIF and do you want that to happen?

TIGER WOODS: Well, the PIF deal obviously is ongoing. SSG, we have solidified our agreement with them and PIF is still ongoing and we're still negotiating.

Q. Tiger, do you see PIF as having the ability to add further to what you guys want to do in addition to SSG?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah. Ultimately we would like to have PIF be a part of our tour and a part of our product. Financially, we don't right now, and the monies that they have come to the table with and what we initially had agreed to in the framework agreement, those are all the same numbers. Anything beyond this is going to be obviously over and above. We're in a position right now, hopefully we can make our product better in the short term and long term.

Q. And just to follow up on Doug asking you about here, so what is the frustration level of not winning here given that you won everywhere around the world? Like how frustrating is that?

TIGER WOODS: It is frustrating in the sense that this is a golf course that has been to me been very comfortable visually. As I said, it's a fader's delight from the tee shots and I have, as I said, been a pretty good iron player, but for some reason I just haven't put it together at this event other than one time with a chance. For some reason it just hasn't happened. Hopefully, it will be this week.

Q. And the frustration?



TIGER WOODS: You can see that, and you're asking me the question.

Q. Tiger, two parts here, kind of random one, what's Josh Allen's game like? And two, how did Lance end up on your bag?

TIGER WOODS: Josh's game, considering what he does for a living and the pounding that he takes on the body, the fact that he's been able to play this game, you can see the enjoyment that he has and the addiction that he has for the game of golf. He asked unbelievable questions today about how he can get better that only athletes really can ask those type of questions. That's what's neat about being able to play with athletes, see how their brain works. We're very similar across the board whether we're playing football or golf or baseball, how we look at things are very consistent.

As far as Lance is concerned, I've had a great relationship with him over the years going back to when he caddied for Kooch and when we played at the Presidents Cup together back in, what, Muirfield Village. In all the years that we've been on Ryder Cups and Presidents Cups together and the times I've been able to play with him in the same groups. Very down to earth, very loyal and how he conversated through the years, I've also taken notice of that. We've had the same type of feels in how we look at the golf course and how we read putts, they're very similar. I think it's a great -- we're going to be a great team and look forward to the challenge.

Q. Tiger, there's been a lot of debate recently about reunification in the game and kind of the best ways to do that. What's your opinion on a potential pathway back to the PGA TOUR for LIV players?

TIGER WOODS: We're looking into all the different models for pathways back. What that looks like, what the impact is for the players who have stayed and who have not left and how we make our product better going forward, there is no answer to that right now. We're looking at a very different -- varying degrees of ideas and what that looks like in the short term, we don't know. We don't even know in the longer term what that looks like. Trust me, there's daily, weekly emails and talks about this and what this looks like for our tour going forward.

Q. From a technical perspective, what are you working on in your swing to make sure it's competition ready?

TIGER WOODS: I think that more than anything, that I try and do from a technical standpoint is making sure I can still hit the golf ball flush and solid. I don't have the same speed I used to have, I don't have the ability to practice the same amount of hours, but I still do work on making sure that I can hit the ball on the middle of the face. If I can do that consistently, one of the reasons I don't have a choice right now, my body day to day, week to week just looks kind of different. I can't really model myself or fit any kind of model -- a lot of it's my hands and my feel. I built this golf swing the last few years, four, five years based on my hands and what that feels like. What that looks like, I don't -- sometimes it doesn't



look pretty, but I can still hit the ball flush.

Q. Tiger, how emotional a week can this be or will this be when you consider for you basically this is where it all started?

TIGER WOODS: Jim, it's been -- it's been full circle for us, for me to have come out here when I was, what, 7, 8 years old, whenever it was when Lanny won, going away, and to come out here and play my first tour event and my first introduction to the tour. And then for us, whatever it is, 20 some odd years, 25 years later to have the foundation actually run and be in control of it, actually hosting and playing, it's an incredible week and it's a great week for all of us.

Q. Tiger, two things. Have you personally met or spoken with anyone from the public investment fund, including Yassir?

TIGER WOODS: No, I have not.

Q. Do you have a sense for what their goal is or what their end game is in all of this?

TIGER WOODS: From what their representatives have discussed with us, yes and no, because that changes and that evolves from a few months ago to what it is currently now.

Q. Is that good or -- is that good or bad from your standpoint, how it's changed?

TIGER WOODS: I don't know if it's good or bad, it's an ongoing, fluid process.

Q. I was wondering if having your ankle fused diminishes the pain that you have when you play, and if you can also describe your love of the game now in a different physical state as compared to when you were whole?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, my ankle doesn't hurt anymore because no bones are rubbing anymore. But then again, it's different. Other parts of my body have to take the brunt of it. Just like my back is fused so other of my body have taken the brunt of that. I have two different body parts that are now fused. Yeah, other parts of the body have to adapt.

As far as the love, I still love competing, I love playing, I love being a part of the game of golf. This is the game of a lifetime and I don't ever want to stop playing. I love being able to compete, I love being able to enjoy different conversations from across time. For instance, like today, to be able to play with two great athletes, the cross-pollination doesn't happen with other sports. And this game, I love that and I don't ever want to lose that.

Q. You gave Gary an exemption. What will that mean to you playing with him considering what he has gone through and I guess relating it to what you've gone through. They're different things, but serious?



TIGER WOODS: I think what Gary has gone through, I don't think people have really given it enough play, enough really -- I think we haven't had enough conversation about what he's gone through and how difficult life was for Gary and how scary that each and every moment he's afraid of dying, and the anxiety of that and to have a surgery and remove a tumor out of his brain and to come back and play the Tour, that's an unbelievable story. I think that we should applaud him for what he's been able to overcome. I can't wait -- he's been one of my great friends over the years. To be able to play with two great friends tomorrow, we're going to have a great time. Obviously we're going to be needling each other, but it's a great needling. The fact that we're able to do it, the fact that he's here and able give us the needling is fantastic because that was a scary time when we didn't know what that was going to look like.

Q. Some new gear for you so far this week, new prototype Sun Day Red shoes, and it looks like you're testing between the old sim 3-wood and the TaylorMade Qi10 Tour with the new shaft. Curious your thoughts on the shoes and thoughts on the new 3-wood?

TIGER WOODS: Well, the 3-wood is in play. I feel very comfortable with the 3-wood. I had to find the right shaft for it and decided to switch the shafts and go with what I have on my driver. My 5-wood's different, it's old, a little beat up, but it still works. But the 3-wood, I wanted to find something I could draw a little bit better and this one is definitely that.

As far as the shoes go, had to make a slight adjustment yesterday, was putting some nails in for traction. Being at home in Florida and testing in Florida was very different than coming out here and playing off a slope and playing off of wet grass and having the traction I needed. So I put some nails in yesterday and it's been working.

Q. Tiger, with the negotiations with the PIF, how much of an issue is team golf and what is your opinion on team golf fitting into the future of the sport?

TIGER WOODS: How team golf is, it's going to be a part of the tour. It is part of the Tour, we had TGL. What that looks like as far as official event goes, we don't know what that looks like yet as of now. As far as off one-night events, what TMRW golf league provides, it is going to be entertaining. Whether or not we can transform that or -- put that together with official open events, that's one of the reasons we have SSG to be a part of what that can possibly look like or how does that even look like or how does that even look like with our PIF negotiations as well.

Q. This tournament impacts your foundation and this question is from one of your TGR Learning Lab student who is also an aspiring sports media professional. His question is, why is it important for you to provide resources and opportunities for students who don't have access to them at school or home? As a follow-up; to that he wants to know what message do you want to send to your TGR Learning Lab students?



TIGER WOODS: Without the ability or availability and access to the information that is afforded to a lot of the kids who have come from more comfortable backgrounds, a lot of these kids don't have the availability to make the leaps and be -- and transform their families. That's what our foundation is trying to do and that's why we're trying to provide either learning labs or a curriculum providing access to that availability, providing the encouragement, what that looks like. It's been a long road for all of us to try and get to this point, trying to help as many kids as we possibly can, and with our learning lab I think we've had -- we have 200,000 kids that we have served currently and our expansion into Philly and to here, greater Los Angeles area, (Indiscernible), these are all things, how are we going to give back and how are we going to make our society better. That's what we're trying. Without all of you here, without the tournament like this, we wouldn't have those opportunities, so I just want to say thank you for all of that.

MARK WILLIAMS: We want to say thank you everyone for attending and thank you, Tiger, for being the host.

