

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ
May 3, 2017

DAVE SENKO: Well, Miguel, thanks for joining us. I know this is your first time playing in this event here, but you did play, if I'm not mistaken, here at this course on the PGA Tour about 15 years ago.

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Fifteen, 16, yes.

DAVE SENKO: Do you remember much about the golf course?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Honestly, no. I played Houston when landing from Europe, I went to see the golf course. I wanted to see if I remember something, but no, not really.

DAVE SENKO: You had a chance to look at it today. What are your thoughts on this?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Well, the thing is we played with quite a bit of wind, gusty wind. Sometimes you have like three-clubs wind and sometimes only one-club wind, that's why it's difficult today. The condition of the golf course is superb and all the grass and then bunkers, the green, they are super condition. But they they're going to be tricky to read greens. The greens going that way and then they change directions and things. I think it's going to be one of the keys this week, reading the greens properly. The golf course, it's a nice golf course where you have a long par 3, short par 3s, par 5 you can reach in two, par 4 that you have to make a layup. I think it's a very nice golf course, beautiful golf course and in super conditions.

DAVE SENKO: Now, I saw you in Springfield, you went back to Vienna for a week, and now when did you arrive back here in the U.S.?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Tuesday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon. I need to go back home. You know, we are under construction on a house there and I have to check some things with my wife, and also I need to see my people there, yeah.

DAVE SENKO: For someone like yourself that's traveled the world, how much time does it take to adjust to, probably it's an eight-hour time difference?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Normally, one hour per day. You think it should be maybe two hours per day. The body rest when you sleep, you know. Sometimes you need to fool yourself to sleep to wait until you rest and be able the next day to do what you have to do.

Q. You and Freddie were (inaudible.) Do you feel like you owe Freddie one here?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: He played very well, he beat me there, one behind. And then

we'll see what happens this week, you know? You never know what's going to happen. Sunday is not only Freddie. You see the players here, it's going to be a very interesting tournament.

Q. You can never say that Bernhard is not a guy to beat, he's always going to be in the mix?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: He's always there. You see every week, if he's not win, he's always around there. A man like a Freddie, like McCarron, all of them, they're all of them sneak in there.

Q. And on this tour, the list isn't quite as long on the PGA Tour of guys who you think are going to be in the hunt?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: What?

Q. On this tour, you're not going to have quite as many people you would assume to be in the hunt?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: There's not that many people, no, probably with options to win, no, but that doesn't mean there is no competitive, that people that are every week here is tough to beat, they are competitors all of them, no? The only way you have 150 players field, whether you are all the big swords, they are competing, you know, you have more tough usually.

Q. Has this tournament just not fit your schedule in previous years and it fits this year?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Well, last year I been competing last year, I have a house here, a house in Europe. This year I'm going to play 20 here and play only five, I think, yeah. Here I'm going to play 20 and I'm going to play only five tournaments in Europe. It's time to commit 100 percent here. That's the way.

Q. Fred missed the entire season last year with back problems. Obviously you've seen him play this year, you've talked to him. Is he feeling well?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: He's feeling much better with all these things. Now we all want him to come back because he's a character for golf.

Q. He's good to have on the tour?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Yeah, it's nice, yeah.

Q. How are you feeling?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Me?

Q. Except for a little sleepy?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: No, perfect, perfect. I feel good, nice, feel good. A little bit muscle pain, working a little bit too hard yesterday in the gym, but good.

Q. How have you had to adjust? Each year is almost like even more than -- when you were a young guy one year to the next maybe not so much different. What has been your procedure to deal with aging and be competitive?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: The thing is more age, the older we get, the more exercise we have to make. That's the only secret. You working on the stretch, you work at losing some weight, doing things to get your muscles with the right texture and keep mobility and flexibility.

Q. And that's why you're in the gym?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: In the last 10 years and the rest of my life before, no? I always do something, no, especially stretch and all these things, it's very important.

Q. Miguel, did you say you're building a home in Vienna?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: My wife is from Austria. We have an apartment in Vienna but we're building a house one hour south of Vienna, yeah.

DAVE SENKO: What is the town or village?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: In Bad Waltersdorf. It's one hour south of Vienna.

Q. I think now I know why you're going to play more in the U.S., because you don't want to -- I've built houses before, it's hard. The more you can stay away from it, the better, right?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: My wife's taking care of those things. She's not coming this week.

Q. What was your reaction to Sergio finally winning a major?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: What do you think? Of course, very happy. Is very nice to he deserves it really. He's been several times knocking on the door, lost some playoffs, and he's a guy who deserve it, no? He played very well, very solid and he deserve it, nice.

DAVE SENKO: How long have you known Sergio? When did you first meet him?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: I think in 1999, probably in that year when he become professional. I know him for when he plays as amateur, but I get to know him in person in 1999 when he turned professional. He was still amateur when we played the Spanish Open in Barcelona and we play a round only Seve, him and me, a practice round together and the first time we played together, no. And then after the Spanish Open, I think he turned professional and I'm playing (inaudible) in 1999.

Q. Miguel, at this tournament they also have Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player and Lee Trevino and some of the other greats of golf are going to play together. Any of them among your favorites? Do you have a good story about any of them?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: They are great players, all of them. When you list Lee Trevino, he always loud, you know? Funny guy always. I got the chance to play with him, I think I played once many years ago at The Open, the British Open many, many years ago.

Gary Player is always another funny guy. He's always telling stories and always (inaudible) himself, so you always have this.

And I got a history with Jack Nicklaus, Seve and me. 1994 when we were at the golf course (inaudible) in Montecastillo. We played the Andalucia Open there and then he's the designer of that golf course at Montecastillo. And then at that moment might have been my fifth year on the Tour and (inaudible.) I played there and made the first two rounds of the tournament, I played Nicklaus, Seve and me. My English now is no good, you can imagine 23 years ago. Anyway, but you can understand me, no? Thank you.

Then I been practicing my brother, who's my coach also, and another friend who's also a professional golfer. They watching me on the driving range warming up. I cannot hit any ball. I hit nothing, and (inaudible). I cannot hit a ball. Please, relax, play and enjoy. This is a unique opportunity, play with two of the best players in the world.

Okay. Go to the first tee and then I have my scorecard, just waiting. Seve's coming, Nicklaus coming. I take the (inaudible) and all together and say, Gentlemen, to me it's an honor to play with my hero Seve and with (inaudible.) Whew. But I feel like I need to say something just to release something from myself and I have to say that, and both of them smiling, no.

Q. How did you play?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Well, I ended playing well, played well. But I think the first few holes were a little bit tense. But human, no?

Q. Did you play that PGA when Sergio almost beat Tiger in '99?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Yes, at Medinah, yeah.

Q. What do you think he's capable of now that he's got one under his belt?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Well, now (inaudible) probably. He's been so many times there and lost in a playoff a couple times, but you can see in this Masters the way he plays, the way he goes on the golf course, the body language is in the right place, everything. I think that is going to open it up for more. You see Mickelson, I think he won his first major at the same age 37 and afterward he there. Mickelson before, how many times he finished second, always knocking on the door. At the age of 37 he won his first major and how many have it now? Five. For Mickelson, no? Then now Sergio is 37, he just opened the door now and I think he's going to be a few more.

Q. Are you going to play Wentworth in a couple weeks?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: No, I'm going to play the PGA here this year. I've been missing the PGA year every year because I play Wentworth every year. I love the golf course, but this year I'm going to play the PGA here.

Q. What do you love about that golf course, Wentworth?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Well, it's nice, you know? It's the (inaudible) on the European Tour that when I start to play I never missed that tournament since I got my tour card. I love the place, I know a lot of people around there, I like the golf course. I win there also, then that's a place you want to play always.

Q. They made a lot of changes to it.

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Yeah, I didn't see the changes. I would love to go to play and see the changes, but you can't be in two places at the same time.