PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW October 17, 2018

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ



LAURA VESCOVI: Welcome, Miguel. Welcome back to the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. Thanks for joining us today. I want to talk a little bit about your season. You've had a great season, especially the majors, winning the Regions Tradition and the Senior Open Championship. Now you're entering the Schwab Cup Playoffs at No. 2.

Do you equate the importance of majors to the Schwab Cup? In other words, would it mean as much to win?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Well, it's different even if they're part of the tour, no? Obviously majors is majors and that's something we've been looking for for so many years, (inaudible) around the world and I see now two majors this year, this is outstanding, no? Now we're talking Charles Schwab Cup, no? The Charles Schwab Cup is a different thing, it's the end of the season. The season was very good as you say, I'm lying second now in the ranking and I hope after this three weeks can climb and I win the Charles Schwab Cup. That would be amazing, that would be another goal on the career.

LAURA VESCOVI: Speaking of the James River course specifically here, do you like this course? Does it play well to your game.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Yeah, well, this is my third time playing here and yes, the golf course is very nice. It's in superb condition. I played yesterday 18 holes and the greens are a little bit soft, but the balls roll very good. It's nice, nice conditions, yeah. I like it.

Q. We've had lots of rain, really lots of rain. The superintendent's worked very hard to get the course in condition for you guys.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: It's in superb condition, yeah.

Q. You can live with the soft, I guess?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Yeah. Well, I think it's the same condition for every player, you know? That's the main thing. It's not going to be harder or softer for different ones. The golf course is going to be in the same condition for everyone and makes it a little bit -- as I said, it's a little bit softer, but the ball rolls pretty good. With the climate you have here with the weather and everything, the golf course is in super condition after all that.

Q. Does it widen the fairways when it's a little soft, or this is a golf course you just don't bomb it, you have to move the ball around?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Well, all the long hitters always have an advantage. You know, you have par 5s, hit the green in two if you hit a nice and long drive, you know? It's not the same hitting a 4-iron on a par 3 or hitting a 6-iron on a par 3. The longer hitter is always going to be better.

But the golf course need to play always in the right place because you miss the fairway with this kind of rough that's so rough, very far from this rough, you need to contour, you need to be placed on the fairway to attack the flags. The golf course has a couple of holes where you need to put the ball in the right place. I think it's a good test, yeah.

Q. You're locked in a great battle for the Schwab Cup and one of the people you're trying to overtake is, or the man you're trying to overtake right now is probably a man you played against for a long time. Can you talk a little bit about Bernhard and his longevity and --

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Yeah. Well, I think people really talk about it, you know? He's been (ready?) for the last 40 years. (Laughs.) You know, he's very solid player, he almost never miss a shot. He's very methodic on the golf course and I think he's the man to beat.

Of course, we don't have to look only on him, you know, because you have a good battery of player there. Myself there, you have Kelly, McCarron, and especially the four guys probably you can see most close to win the Charles Schwab Cup. Also, Parel is playing very well also the last few weeks. You have a good lineup of players there that can have the final, you know, three weeks, but every week the situation is double and you just wait and see. Obviously, as you say, Bernhard is very solid player all through his life, the last through few years. How many victory he have now on the Champions?

LAURA VESCOVI: 38.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: 38. He's the man to beat.

Q. 18 events for you, \$1.8 million, so you've been very consistent this year and throughout your career. What are the reasons for your consistency?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Well, I love what I'm doing. I love the game of golf, I enjoy myself anytime I am on the golf course competing and that's probably the secret. I stay healthy, I still working hard, I still practice and I still commit to what I'm doing.

Q. How much practice is required?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Well, today I play the pro-am, I stopped practicing around 10:15 or something, I have two hours practice and now I'll have a session on the putting green, a little bit of lunch, a big fat cigar and then after that I'm going to go to the (inaudible) for an hour and a half, make some place in the stomach for dinner, no, with a nice bottle of wine, of course.

Q. I'm just curious about what you see as the importance of this tour to not just with the guys on it but to the game of golf and the continuity of guys going from the PGA TOUR to this tour, from the European Tour to this tour. What does it mean to you guys to be able to do that?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Yeah, well, I don't know. I think this Champions Tour is a great tour, beautiful, and all the players when we get some kind of age we looking forward to getting here. And the good thing for this tour that all the players are coming, all the (inaudible) players on the Champions Tour, you know, they are making a boost to the tour, no? When they come in, now with Jerry Kelly and McCarron, Stricker, in a couple years you're going to have Mickelson, Retief, Cabrera, it's another boost for the tour.

People who are still playing on the main tour, they're still doing good, they're still doing okay, but when they're coming here, they are the top, we can say, no? And that's good for the tour, it's good for sponsors, it's good for everyone. I think it's nice to have this tour. And then, I don't know what to say. I think it's great having those guys who's coming from the main tours to this Champions Tour, especially because you're making this one growing.

Q. So what if there was a senior Ryder Cup?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Sorry?

Q. What if there was a senior Ryder Cup, is that something that --

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: I never think about it, never think about it. The Ryder Cup is a nice event the way it is now. It's the event, it's something different, it's special.

Q. You wouldn't do it as a senior, have a senior team against senior team?

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: I wouldn't mind, I wouldn't mind, but I don't know if that is going to be feasible or no, but I think it would be nice. Would be nice, yeah.

LAURA VESCOVI: Great. Thank you, Miguel. Good luck this week.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ: Thank you very much.