

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
March 11, 2018

VIJAY SINGH (-11)



CHRIS RICHARDS: Congratulations, Vijay, on winning the 2018 Toshiba Classic.

VIJAY SINGH: Thank you.

CHRIS RICHARDS: What does it mean to you to return to the winner's circle after -- you won the team event last year, but it's been nine years since your last individual victory.

VIJAY SINGH: Yeah, I mean, I knew it was going to happen, but I didn't know when. Even playing the regular Tour, I was always -- you know, I'm always confident enough to go out there and play and win. My mindset always when I tee it up is to win golf tournaments. It's just been a long, long drought, a lot of injuries, a lot of bad golf, you name it. But it's nice to win. It's the first win for a while, and hopefully this is the start of many to come.

CHRIS RICHARDS: A lot of players talk about how much more difficult it is to win out here than they maybe initially thought. Do you find that to be the case with you?

VIJAY SINGH: Yeah, I just put a lot of pressure on myself when I first came out here. Every time I teed up, you know, I was -- I thought I had to win. The more I did that, the more I didn't win, the harder it got.

This week was a little different. Last week I was sick with cold and flu, and this week kind of started off that way, so my expectation wasn't very high. I just came out here, I said I'm just going to go out and play. I knew the golf course is very short, so I needed to putt well and hit my short irons well, and that's what I did. I think my putter helped me out a lot. Just one of those things, everything went right.

Q. As hard as you practice, is that even more of a surprise to you that it's taken this long until you got the W?

VIJAY SINGH: Yeah, you know, it's not so much the practice, but as you get older the body feels a little bit harder to manage. I've had a lot of injuries, but I've been swinging the club really well, just nothing actually came together. For some reason, one week I feel really good and something goes off. And my patience has been really bad. I haven't been a patient golfer. If things don't go right for me within the first, you know, round or so, I just don't want to be there. So that's just the kind of mindset I had for a while. So I've been trying to change that. I'm recognizing what's bad, what's good. I can be hitting the best -- playing the best golf, but if your mind's not right, you're not going to win golf tournaments and that's pretty much what it's been.

Q. Is this a relief to get this win, or what's the feeling?

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know, I don't feel anything at the moment. I guess it's a relief. I always knew I was going to win out here, it was just a matter of time. But when you don't win for a couple years -- I haven't been consistent enough -- I haven't played consistent enough out here. I played last year a few more than I did the previous years. I was going to play a lot more this year anyway, so this is a good start and hopefully I'm going to win a few more.

Q. Do you plan to play more on the Champions --

VIJAY SINGH: Yeah. I just turned 55, so I can't be kidding myself out there.

Q. So what happened on 17?

VIJAY SINGH: You know, I tried to just cut a 5-iron into the wind, but I guess we got the wind wrong. I thought the wind was coming into from the right, but obviously it was down from the right. I just flushed it. I didn't even hit it hard. I was only trying to hit a 5-iron 200 yards and it flew way further than that. But I was lucky to get out with a bogey there, very fortunate.

Q. Does it make it more difficult when you play events on both tours going back and forth? Is that a factor?

VIJAY SINGH: Yeah, it's pretty hard. It's harder coming from the regular tour to here than going back out there because I'm so used to playing out there. Coming over here, it's like I put so much pressure on myself to perform well, and obviously the golf courses are not as long and frustration just takes the better part of me when I'm out here. That's what's been happening anyway.

Everybody out here is -- everybody can play, they're good players. So whoever's coming out here thinking they can just come and win, it's a little harder than that. That's what I found anyway.

Q. Consider this to be a nice tune-up for Augusta for you?

VIJAY SINGH: Yeah. I mean, it's a different kettle of fish, but a win is a win. Anytime you win, no matter where you win, it feels good. Hopefully I'm going to start feeling something here soon.

Q. I wonder what it's like for you at this stage and how competitive your juices are when you are playing at Augusta at this time?

VIJAY SINGH: Well, I'm going to play Augusta until I feel like I cannot win, which is going to be here very soon. It's a long hitter's golf course, very demanding, you've got to bring every

part of your game over there. If there's one chance for me to win left, this year would be, you know. I'm going to give it a shot and see what happens.

Q. Are you surprised at what Tiger's doing? He finished tied second if you don't know.

VIJAY SINGH: That's a good -- you know, he's not Tiger Woods for nothing. He's won 79 tournaments and countless majors. The name says it all. He can play.

Q. You think?

VIJAY SINGH: He can flat out play, yeah.

Q. Rocco said he still thinks he's the favorite. Do you agree with him or no?

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know. There's so many players out there right now that can play really well. He will be going in one of -- you know, he's gearing his game up for Augusta obviously. He hasn't lost any distance at all and he's putting well, and he knows the golf course, so yeah, very well.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thanks, Vijay. Congratulations.

VIJAY SINGH: Thank you.