

MIGUEL ÁNGEL JIMÉNEZ PRESS CONFERENCE

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We have Miguel Ángel Jiménez, our 2020 Sanford International Champion. Miguel, how does it feel to be back in a place where you've won before?

As you said, I've won here, the first time coming here to Sioux Falls in 2020. Coming here for years to play, I really enjoy the place, the people, the ambience, and the golf course is very nice. I feel very confident here and I like the format, the people, and the golf course this year looks beautiful also, excellent conditions.

The last time we talked and you were here, you were drinking wine and smoking a cigar. Are you still enjoying life as much?

I try to, you know? Life is not only work, you need to enjoy your life! Today, I'm going to have a beautiful [cigar]. I'm going to do that as soon as I finish here and get ready. Of course, I love what I do in my life. You know, playing golf has given me everything in life. I give my life to golf and there's positives there. Obviously, I like to have some wine, but that doesn't mean I have bottles every day. When you eat, you like to have a glass of wine, you like to have whiskey, you want to smoke, you want coffee.

But also, we are here, I'm 61 and still playing, I think, the same golf. But something different happens, people know what I do in the morning, what I've been doing in the morning. This morning, in the gym, the first thing I do when I wake up in the morning: I go work out, I do my stretches, my elastic bands, my physical things. So, I have my refresh now, now I'm talking to you, then I'll go practice. And then tonight, I'm going to [do] that part of the life, that some people think that's the only thing that happens, you know? The people who know the sport know [there's] something more behind [it].

You mentioned you love the course. Do you prefer this kind of a thinking man's course as opposed to some of the courses where you just got to bomb it out there?

I like more thinking man's courses. I am not a bomber. I prefer to play more strategically, you need to have a little combination. It's more important here to put the ball in place because...of the amount of greens. You need to be in the fairways to get to the flags because there is a lot of movement on them. And you need to be on the low part of the hole to try to be more aggressive. If you're on the wrong part, you are either sideways or past the flags, you're going to pull up. And then it's very important to be accurate and put the ball in play.

How much more confidence do you have here having won here?

Well, when you win in a place, obviously you feel like you like it and you always got the memories from the shots that you hit when you won here, so that gives you confidence.

How do you feel about your game at this present moment?

I've been playing well all year. I have four victories. The last few weeks, I didn't play. I played two weeks ago at the Swiss Open in Europe. But then I miss a few tournaments here, I need to rest because there's been a lot of long trips up and down. And this is my first tournament after that. But I feel good. As I say, a few victories here, many times top 10. I'm still hitting the ball, going where I want to, I feel good. I need to keep doing that and at the same time, I need to [make] some putts. Because you're going to see every week, guys like Stewart Cink and Thomas Bjorn. All of these guys, every week we go out there, we're on top.

What makes this tournament special?

Like I said before, first time I came here, I won. That makes you feel good, no? It's a nice golf course, as I said before. It suits my game I think. And then, all the ambience, what happens here, I think it's very nice. I feel confident and when you feel good in a place, you have to keep going to that place.

I'm guessing it's a lot more fun for you guys to come to a place where the crowd turns out the way it does here.

Yeah, here it's nice, I like it. The gallery is beautiful. For example, you see yesterday [Wednesday]...how many people are already at the golf course, walking here. They have fun, they like to have fun here, it's nice. It's good to see that, we like to see people on the golf course. It's one of the best places you can see lots of people on the golf course enjoying themselves.