

SOREN KJELDSSEN PRESS CONFERENCE
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Soren - your first appearance at the Sanford International. You just got done playing in the pro-am. What are your thoughts on golf course?

Yeah, course is really solid. It's sort of like you pretty much see what you need to do. There's a bit of bounce in the fairways and the greens, so it plays relatively firm, which you know it's good. I think the firmer a golf course plays the more you sort of you know pressurize to hit the right shot, so yeah, they're very, very nice, course I really enjoyed it.

This is your 12th start of the year. You're coming off back-to-back top sixth finishes. How are you feeling about your game coming into this week?

I feel good. It's been a great start to my season here, and coming in sort of halfway through the season, but I think I played well, and I think I've been able to develop a few of the areas that needed a little bit of care, so yeah, things are going well.

What are those areas?

I think my wedge game has become sharper again, and I think my driver has improved a little bit. My putting is still a little bit sort of on and off, but generally, I think you know it's getting slightly better so, there's not one part of my game that I'm sort of really not happy with so that's a good feeling.

Did you anticipate that being the case this year? From Q-School to your 50th birthday, talk us through that.

Yeah, so obviously you know as a pro golfer I never had six months where I didn't, you know, have a tour to play, so play a few on the Nordic League with my son, he played the same tournament. That was great. I played a couple of challenge tour events in Europe. I played a DP World Tour Event as well, but it was good. It was very much my mindset was really getting ready for this event over here, so a lot of physical stuff. I spend a lot of time in the gym to get strong and then work on the areas I need to tune my game. Yeah, I feel like I spent six months in a good way.

Your fellow Dane, Thomas Bjorn, winning last week his first win in the U.S. in an individual event. Can you talk about him hoisting the trophy last week?

It was such a great moment. I was so happy for Thomas. Thomas has been as you know a big part of me coming over here. He told me that I really needed to get ready and get through Q-School, and once I got over here, he's been so good. I mean he's looked after me. He told me about the stuff I didn't know about. I've known Thomas since I was a kid, and he has always been great to me, and I told him on Sunday, I said he's always somebody that I've looked up to and seeing him do that stuff last week – that's the Thomas I know, and it's really sort very of warming for me to see that he still got that, and that's just so beautiful. I had a good chat to him this week, and he said that he got really nervous and tense and stuff like that, and that makes me really happy as well cause you know it still means a lot, and that's what I feel. It's always meant a lot to Thomas, so when he succeeds, you know, you feel that just that pure happiness for him, and it was a great moment.

In Michigan you were telling us you were having a ton of fun being out here. What has been your favorite part about being on the PGA TOUR Champions?

I was actually chatting to one of the caddies about it last week like, 'Name a few good reasons why this is a good tour,' and we could go on the whole round. There are so many good things, but you know like last night there was a caddy thing that I went to - atmosphere was incredible. Like I said before, I still love competing. I still love working hard at my game, but I love the fact that people actually prioritize having a good time as well, and I think being 50, I think your priorities change as well. I'm still as hungry as I have ever been when it comes to my golf game, but at the same time, I don't want to be miserable if that's the only thing I get out of it, and so far I've been so far from miserable as possible. I've just loved every minute of it. People have been great and yeah, it's it really feels like you know like a second career, and I was thinking this morning like I don't think I've ever enjoyed myself so much on a tour as I'm doing at the moment.

Has Thomas or anyone else on the Tour told you about this tournament and what to expect?

I've actually spoken to Miguel quite a bit about this tournament. He said it was one of his favorites - one that he always comes to, and it's a beautiful part of the country as well. You know the people are really great and the golf course is good. We're going to have a good forecast as well. I don't think it's going to get too windy. I normally like the wind, and I was hoping for a little bit of wind. We'll see how it develops, but I hope so. I've heard many good things about this tournament, and so far I can see why.