

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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MICHAEL BLOCK

Q. So, joining us today, Michael Block. Welcome to PGA TOUR Champions. Michael, take us through, this is your first event out here, how are you feeling and how are you preparing for this?

MICHAEL BLOCK: Honestly, like I even just got the chills you just saying that to me. Yesterday was my first day on the grounds here and it was pretty surreal, to be honest. Got to take a cart during the practice round, which was ideal, fantastic for me. I love that. Not going to get tired throughout the week like I kind of do in other events, which is great.

Really cool thing was when I first saw about a year ago, I was realizing I was turning 50 here pretty soon, that the first event that I would be able to play in as a senior on the Champions was back in New York and I'm like, Where? Where is Endicott? So I looked at it and it's only an hour and a half or two hours from Rochester, which obviously I had so much fun with the New York fans back in 2023.

I said, my goodness, if I can somehow get into the DICK'S, that would be the most amazing first start possible. So here we are. I'm crazy excited.

The golf course is fantastic. It's in perfect shape. Sully, the superintendent, has just done amazing job along with the staff.

Q. And then what do you think gets you the most excited about playing with some of these guys out here now on this tour?

MICHAEL BLOCK: You know what, the weird part about it is that I'm actually probably a little more nervous playing on this tour even than I am in just the PGA Championship a month ago because I never grew up idolizing the guys out on the regular tour, I grew up idolizing these guys.

So this is actually, my idols are here, not on the regular tour. I'm more nervous and more excited about my pairings. I can't wait to see my pairings the next couple days. It changes every day, so I'm going to be with a couple guys that I've grown up watching golf my whole life. This is a lot of fun.

Q. Have you gotten a chance to talk to anyone out here just since you've been out?

MICHAEL BLOCK: Yeah, everyone's been absolutely unbelievably kind to me so far. Everyone's coming up to me and wishing me luck. I didn't know how it's going to be. I'm a club pro who had a great event and I've kind of lived off that for the last couple years.



Obviously it's been tough out there trying to compete against the kids on the regular tour. I'm super excited to come out here where I am no longer the short guy, I'm no longer the old guy.

So out here it's going to be fun to be able to hit the golf ball close up to most of the other guys and have a great time. It seems like it's much more casual, a lot more fun and a lot of camaraderie with the guys. After a couple events out here, I just know that I'm going to play with so many of them and become friends with a lot of them as well.

Q. Today playing in the pro-am as well, kind of what's it like for you going in and playing a pro-am now before you get in the actual tournament itself?

MICHAEL BLOCK: It's great. It's actually competition because it isn't just hit-and-giggle. The pro has some pressure. These guys paid some money to come out and play in this pro-am. You don't want to disappoint them with a bunch of pars and bogeys, right? I'm going out there and trying to make as many birdies and a couple eagles for these guys as I possibly can.

So I put a little pressure on myself, which is great because it gets me ready for the actual tournament. I love playing the pro-am. I'm playing it today and tomorrow morning as well, so super excited to get out there. I met the guys last night at the pro-am opening party and they're a lot of fun, so we'll have a good time.

Q. Have you played any practice rounds here so far, and if so, what have you seen from the course that could potentially benefit you this weekend?

MICHAEL BLOCK: Yeah, so I took the redeye yesterday, got into Syracuse at 8:00 in the morning, drove down here and played 18 holes with my son. He was on the bag, we took a cart around, it was great.

The course, like I said, it's in perfect shape. The greens are great, I love them. They're probably what kind of my course is, which was all bent and now it's all poa. Rolling at a great speed, rolling probably 11 and a half or so, very makeable putts. A couple par 5s, there's four par 5s out here, which I love. Two of them are hard to get to, the other two you can.

Pretty tight. The first hole, I heard it's a tight course so I got on the first hole yesterday and, hole 1, I go, if they're all like this, this is going to be crazy tight. But hole 1's the tightest one of the bunch, so thank goodness. Yeah, definitely keeping the ball in play off the tee's going to be a huge key. Once you do that, you have a shorter club into the greens and they're somewhat receptive, too, so you can score.

