



Zach Johnson

Pre-Tournament Interview Transcript

August 19, 2026

Question: Back over to Calgary, our first time at the Rogers Charity Classic. Two weeks off since your last start. How did the game feel coming into this book?

Answer by Zach Johnson:

Game feels great. Fortunately, I had a good two weeks, nice week -- second week to really kind of get back in gear, prepare. Gosh, it's hot. Brutally hot. So, it was not hard to warm up. But nice to be here. Weather is spectacular. The course is great. Everything about this event, which I was told is spectacular, and so far, this place has not disappointed. And it won't. I can already feel it. So -- happy to be in Calgary. It's so far, two, three days, two and a half days. It's been amazing.

Question: You sit No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. What are you looking to get out of this week and looking forward for the rest of the season?

Answer by Zach Johnson:

I just want to continue good play. I mean, I don't -- you know, where I finish is a byproduct of staying where my feet are, playing good golf. We've got a good system going. My caddy Smitty and I, we've got a good -- I would say just a good template to how we're navigating golf courses, how we're keeping perspective on things and, you know, not getting too high with the highs or low with the lows. So -- I don't have any other expectations other than just to, you know, execute shots. I feel fortunate Stewart is not playing. Love you, Stewy.

Question: Thinking of that, I talked to Stewy last week.

Answer by Zach Johnson:

Sure, you did.

Question: About your friendship, and how he loves the rivalry. Do you see that?

Answer by Zach Johnson:

I don't know if rivalry is the word. I mean, that kind of -- it depends on the definition of it. I mean, I think it's -- if it is, it's a healthy one. I mean that sincerely. Like in Portugal -- I mean, I had dinner with him that night, and they were -- when I say this, I'm not just saying it because it's a nice thing, but they were genuinely happy for me. And I am -- when he won last week, I hope I was one of the first text messages, you know. Because I'm genuinely happy for him and all of his successes. And that -- I mean, it really starts and ends with that. I mean -- and I think the healthy part of it is -- obviously we're different on and off the golf course, but the healthy part of it is that we can make each other better. I mean, we both -- Lisa kind of might have said it, maybe my wife said it. Granted, women do have perspective, don't they? We still work and we still have like -- I don't know. I don't know if I have like bolt more goals. I'm not much of that, but I have objective-based goals in the game, I guess you'd say.

How I'm trying to get better, you know. Kind of each and every year -- well, even multiple times throughout the year you kind of assess and you just want to get better. And so I've seen Stewart work. He's a worker. And he's kept in great shape. That's a credit to him. You know, he gives every -- every piece of the pie, every aspect of the game, he gives the proper amount of time and space. And so, you know, I've obviously learned that from him as well. So -- but, yeah, I mean, our friendship is so thick, and I -- you know, when I've had valleys and he's had valleys, we've been there, you know, because you're going to. This game is hard. And when we have successes and peaks, ideally we're the first ones to congratulate or hug the other. So -- he's a -- he's a stud.

Question: Zach, a top 10 finish on PGA Tour this summer as well.

Answer by Zach Johnson:

Oh. Yeah. Feels like eons ago.

Question: What was it about that week for you and was it kind of like a -- did you prove anything to yourself?

Answer by Zach Johnson:

No.

Question: You don't take that away from...

Answer by Zach Johnson:

No, no, no, no. I mean, I think there's maybe -- you can probably attribute maybe a little bit of decent play to having some successes out here, you know. I mean, take just -- take whichever tour you -- take the tour out of it. Champions Tour or PGA Tour Champions or -- PGA tour out of it. I'm probably playing some of the best golf -- consistently best golf I've played in probably a few years, at least, and -- so there was no surprise there. I wasn't surprised by the finish. If anything, I was disappointed, if I'm going to be blunt. I mean, I don't enter tournaments to make cuts or finish in the top whatever. I want to win. And I had my opportunity. I lost by three, four, five shots, probably. Four or five shots. I don't remember. But, you know, the competitor in me is like, "Man, how did I miss that?" or "Why did I hit that?" You can go back and look at shots where you could have made it up, but I made some shots too. So, it's all -- it's all -- probably all evens out. I had a good week. It was John Deere work, which is a place that was near and dear to me. We do stuff -- John Deere and I do a lot of work on and off the golf course. Foundation work, corporate things of that nature. They're a great partner. So going back there was really easy.

Question: When you maybe zoom out a little bit and think about when you were 47, 48, 49, how much did you think about playing on PGA Tour Champions, or did it kind of like become a thing?

Answer by Zach Johnson:

Yeah. I didn't think about it a ton, if I'm going to be -- I mean, if anything, if it did surface in my brain, it's because some of my best friends are out here. So -- I find myself actually watching a little bit, you know. I don't watch a ton of golf. I'm assuming most people don't watch their business on TV. Maybe they do. I don't know. I don't. But, you know, when you got some of your best buddies out here, you know, it's intriguing, you know. And so the intrigue was probably there, but I didn't dwell on it. I was so focused on right where -- again, right where my feet were, right where I was in that space. All to say, that question you just asked, that notion seemed to be -- seemed to surface a lot more once I turned 49. I mean, the inevitable was coming. And so, you know, I would say kind of midway through last year I'm like, "Wow. Man. Next year might be different." And I didn't -- had I garnered my card on the PGA Tour

-- earned my card on the PGA Tour last year, this could be an entirely different conversation. I have no idea. I mean, I'd like to think I'd still be out here, but I don't know. Because this is the best tour I've ever participated in. And I'm not saying that to be funny. Like this is the best. I mean -- had I won John Deere, I'd still be out here. I mean, I mean that sincerely. My caddy and I talked about it, like why would we go back to there? Three days of golf of great dudes on great golf courses, great arenas, great venues, great support, great sponsors. Like this is the best place in golf.

Question: Is it all business this week or are you doing some fun around town?

Answer by Zach Johnson:

I rarely do any fun. But your question cannot be more relevant right now. My family and I are thinking - I'm not playing tomorrow in the pro-am. I played today, obviously, and I played yesterday. I got 18 in. Yeah, I did. So, we're discussing a venture, you know. When I say that, the obvious is going west.

Question: Yup.

Answer by Zach Johnson:

I'm a geography nut and I'm a mountain man at heart. So, it -- they're right there. So, I may venture out. We'll see.

Question: Thank you guys so much.

Answer by Zach Johnson:

Pleasure.